

Fact #1 - God *Blesses* Generous People!

- *In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: **'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'***

Acts 20:35 (NIV) – Jesus

- ***Give, and it will be given to you.*** *A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you".*

Luke 6:38 (NIV) – Jesus

- ***A generous man will himself be blessed,*** *for he shares his food with the poor.*
Proverbs 22:9 (NIV) – Solomon

- *He who is **kind to the poor** lends to the LORD, and he will **reward him** for what he has done.*

Proverbs 19:17 (NIV) – Solomon

- *When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, **so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.***

Deuteronomy 24:19 (NIV) - Moses

- ²⁴One man **gives freely**, yet **gains even more**; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. ²⁵A generous man will **prosper**; he who refreshes others **will himself be refreshed**.

Proverbs 11:24-25 (NIV) - Solomon

- ⁹**Honor the LORD** with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰then your barns will be **filled to overflowing**, and your vats will **brim over with new wine**.

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV) - Solomon

Summary - Generous living produces emotional happiness, spiritual holiness, and material prosperity.

Fact #2- God Provides Clear and Measurable Guidelines for Becoming a Generous Person

- Genuine generosity gives the first and best to God. (Proverbs 3:9-10)
 - Old Testament Sacrifices – “without defect”
 - The Tithe (first 10%) of the harvest
 - The Question – Is the tithe for today?
- Genuine generosity is regular and systematic. (1Corinthians 16:2)

- Genuine generosity is proportional to our income. (1Corinthians 16:2)
- Genuine generosity is sacrificial. (2 Corinthians 8:1-4)
- Genuine generosity is thoughtful, voluntary, and worshipful. (2 Corinthians 9:5-7)

⁵So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:5-7 (NIV)

Fact #3 is Breakthrough Concept #3.

Generosity Breakthrough Concept #3

- God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.

⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

*¹¹**You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.***

2 Corinthians 9:8-11 (NIV)

Fact #4 - The Key to Becoming Habitually Generous and Experience Habitual Happiness is _____!

Application/Discussion Questions

1. Do you feel happy when you have been kind and generous with your time, talent, and treasure?
2. What specific steps would you need to take to become habitually generous with God's resources entrusted to you?