



THIS IS HOW WE DO IT! KEYS TO SPIRITUAL SUCCESS: GENEROSITY

Series Text:

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

Joshua 1:8 NKJV

Message Texts:

"The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller. The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped." Proverbs 11:24-25 MSG

"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered." Proverbs 11:24-25 ESV

Generosity leads to an enriched life!

To Enrich means:

1. to supply with riches, wealth, abundant or valuable possessions
2. to supply with abundance of anything desirable
3. to add greater value or significance to

"Being generous often consists of simply extending a hand. That's hard to do if you are grasping tightly to your righteousness, your belief system, your superiority, your assumptions about others, your definition of normal." — Patti Digh

- What we do is based upon what we believe.
- What we believe is informed by our world view.

Luke 10:30-37 NIV

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving

him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii[e] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Three Types of People:

1. Takers - Those who take from others to get what they have
2. Keepers - Those who withhold what they have from others
3. Givers - Those who give what they have to others

"A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal."

— Steve Maraboli

Top five benefits of living generously

1. Experiencing greater levels of happiness and satisfaction
2. Decreases stress and the risk of cardiovascular disease
3. Enjoy happier and stronger relationships
4. Protects against depression
5. Increases self-esteem, sense of purpose and meaning in life

"Money is but one venue for generosity. Kindness is an even more valuable currency." — Alan Cohen

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 MSG

1-4 Now, friends, I want to report on the surprising and generous ways in which God is working in the churches in Macedonia province. Fierce troubles came down on the people of those churches, pushing them to the very limit. The trial exposed their true colors: They were incredibly happy, though desperately poor. The pressure triggered something totally unexpected: an outpouring of pure and generous gifts. I was there and

saw it for myself. They gave offerings of whatever they could—far more than they could afford!—pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians.

5-7 This was totally spontaneous, entirely their own idea, and caught us completely off guard. What explains it was that they had first given themselves unreservedly to God and to us. The other giving simply flowed out of the purposes of God working in their lives. That's what prompted us to ask Titus to bring the relief offering to your attention, so that what was so well begun could be finished up. You do so well in so many things—you trust God, you're articulate, you're insightful, you're passionate, you love us—now, do your best in this, too.

What we learn from this church defines what it means to live a generous life. Here are some of the key points:

- Generosity starts with acknowledging God's grace and generosity with us.
- Generosity is not to be hindered by difficult times and severe trials—in fact, they were filled with overflowing joy as they gave under these circumstances.
- Their “extreme poverty” did not stop their rich generosity.
- They not only gave what they were able but even beyond their ability.
- They urgently pleaded to give.
- They saw giving as a “privilege of sharing” with the Lord's people.

"You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

How did they do this?

- They resolved to do what God wanted them to do.
- They gave in obedience, without hesitancy or coercion.
- They were cheerful (literally the word means “hilarious”) givers.
- They understood the principle of sowing and reaping.
- They knew that God was their source and that He was able to bless them abundantly.
- They knew God could provide for their needs.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, In all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, To all the people you can, as long as ever you can." — John Wesley, Letters of John Wesley

Live with an:

1. Open Mind
2. Open Heart

3. Open Hand

This is how we do it at The Tower!

We are a generous church. We are making an impact locally, nationally and internationally.