

GOD'S PROMISE TO THE GENEROUS

The Habits of Happiness (Philippians) - Part 8

"I want you to know about (the church at Philippi's) generosity... Even while suffering in severe trials and extreme poverty, their lives have overflowed with joy because of their amazing generosity. I personally witnessed their giving not simply giving what they could afford. but giving even beyond their human ability! No one told them to do it. It was due to their own generous hearts. in fact they begged and pleaded for the privilege of giving to serve God's people. And they gave in a way we did not expect: They first gave themselves to the Lord and then to us. That is what pleases God!" 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

6 BENEFITS: EVERY TIME I'M GENEROUS...
PHILIPPIANS 4:14-20

1. I EARN THE GRATITUDE OF OTHERS

"How grateful I am and how I praise the Lord that you are helping me again... It was so good that you helped me when I needed it... You Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I brought you the Good News...no other church did this...you sent me aid again and again when I was in need...so I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me."

Philippians 4:10, 14-16, 18

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to God...because you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ... It is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a very special place in my heart. We have shared together the blessings of God." Philippians 1:3, 5, 7 (NLT)

2. I SHOW WHAT REALLY MATTERS MOST

"I want you to understand what really matters..." Philippians 1:10 (NLT)

"All the things I once thought were so very important, I now consider worthless because of Christ." Philippians 3:7

"We are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives."
Philippians 3:20

3. I BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS

"Your lives will be filled with the truly good qualities which only Jesus Christ can produce, for the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1:11

"Don't just look out for your own interests, but look also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."
Philippians 2:4-5

4. I STRENGTHEN MY FAITH

"Do not worry about anything, instead pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks." Philippians 4:6

5. I INVEST IN MY ETERNAL HOME

"Though I appreciate your gifts, what makes me happiest is the well-earned reward you will receive because of your generosity." Philippians 4:17

"I want you to have the profit that accrues to your account." (NAB)

"I want you to receive the blessings that come from giving." (CEV)

"...Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity!"
1 Timothy 6:18-19

6. I MAKE GOD SMILE

"Your gifts are like fragrant offering to God, a sacrifice that God accepts, and is pleasing to Him." Philippians 4:18

THE PROMISE

"THEN God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

"You can be sure that God will take care of everything you need, his generosity exceeding yours, in the glory that pours from Jesus. Glory to God forever and ever!" Philippians 4:19 (MSG)

2 WAYS TO BE GENEROUS

1. **BY REASON**

What can I afford?

2. **BY REVELATION**

God, what do you want to give through me?

"Remember the words that Jesus himself said, 'There's more HAPPINESS in giving than in receiving!'" Acts 20:35