

The Generosity Factor  
Speaker: Dr. Bill Patterson



## Today's Scripture

Psalm 65 NIV

<sup>1</sup> Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion;  
to you our vows will be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup> You who answer prayer,  
to you all people will come.

<sup>3</sup> When we were overwhelmed by sins,  
you forgave our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those you choose and bring  
near to live in your courts!

We are filled with the good things of your  
house, of your holy temple.

<sup>5</sup> You answer us with awesome and  
righteous deeds,

God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of  
the earth and of the farthest seas,

<sup>6</sup> who formed the mountains by your power,  
having armed yourself with strength,

<sup>7</sup> who stilled the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,

and the turmoil of the nations.

<sup>8</sup> The whole earth is filled with awe at your  
wonders; where morning dawns, where  
evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.



## Soul Food

### GOING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

You are encouraged to read verses before and  
after the selected passages.

**Sunday:** Psalm 65 God answers prayer.

**Monday:** Psalm 37:1-9 Take delight in the  
LORD.

**Tuesday:** Isaiah 55:6-11 Seek the LORD while He  
may be found.

**Wed:** 1 John 3:16-24 Effective prayer is tied to  
keeping God's commands.

**Thursday:** Zechariah 13:9b Confession &  
conviction: The LORD is our God! They will call  
on me, I will answer.

**Friday:** John 15:9-17 What we ask in His name  
the Father will give. (Always note the context)

**Saturday:** Hebrews 11:6 Without faith it is  
impossible to please God.

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Sermon Notes



Big Idea: God answers prayer.

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*  
James 1:22 (NIV)

## Your Life in Light of the Word

Psalm 65 is about giving God praise for what He has done. What can you give praise to God for?

How can you make giving praise to God, in public or in private, a regular part of your life?

This Psalm shows us that God hears and answers prayer. How has God answered your prayers?

Psalm 65:3 talks about God's forgiveness. What do you need to ask God to forgive? (Consider your relationship with others and with Him.)

God's great power is acknowledged in this Psalm. How is God's power a gift to us?

Based on Psalm 65, why is God the only hope for all the world?

In what ways is God the source of your hope?

How is God's provision shown in Psalm 65?

How has God provided for you? Are you waiting for Him to provide?

### *Praying God's Word* ~ Psalm 65

- Take time to praise God for what He has done.
- Thank God for answered prayer.
- Thank God for His forgiveness.
- Thank God for His provision.



## God of Abundance

Our Daily Bread

In a day when we are bombarded with dire warnings about over-population, we must remind ourselves that God, who created and sustains everything, is a God of abundance. The psalmist praised Him for His generous provision for His creatures.

A report from the Harvard Center for Population Studies attests to the earth's enormous potential to sustain life. The report estimates that about one-fourth of the ice-free land areas of the world can produce food sufficient for 40 billion people.

So how are we to explain the fierce hunger and starvation that so many people endure? Is this tragedy due to God's failure to provide? No! Such hunger is the result of social and political structures that ignore God's principles for the care of the earth and its inhabitants.

Christians should join the psalmist in praising God for the way He provides. Because of Him the "pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered with grain" (Ps. 65:13). He gives our lives meaning and fulfillment.

Our hearts should be filled with praise and thanksgiving for all that God has given to us! Since He provides so abundantly for His creatures, let's show our gratitude by our willingness to meet the needs of those around us.

**God's store never has empty shelves.**