

GOD'S PROMISES TO THE GENEROUS

The Habits of Happiness: Finale!

November 15, 2015

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2 Corinthians 8:1–5 (NLT)

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. ² They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. ³ For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. ⁴ They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. ⁵ They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

BENEFITS FROM GIVING GENEROUSLY

Philippians 4:14-20

1. IT SPREADS HAPPINESS!

“I’m glad in God, far happier than you would ever guess—happy that you’re again showing such strong concern for me. Not that you ever quit praying and thinking about me. You just had no chance to show it.” (Philippians 4:10, The Message)

“...remembering the words that the Lord Jesus himself said, ‘There is more happiness in giving than in receiving.’ ” (Acts 20:35, GNB)

“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. For you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God...” (Philippians 1:7, NLT)

2. IT DEMONSTRATES MY PRIORITIES.

“For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ’s return.” (Philippians 1:10, NLT)

“I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.” (Philippians 3:7, NLT)

3. IT MAKES ME MORE LIKE JESUS.

“May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.” (Philippians 1:11, NLT)

“Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.” (Philippians 2:4–5, NLT)

4. IT GROWS THE KINGDOM IN AND THROUGH ME.

“Though I appreciate your gifts, what makes me happiest is the well-earned reward you will have because of your kindness.” (Philippians 4:17, The Living Bible)

“...I am eager for the profit that accrues to your account.” (NAB)

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

“Tell [those with money] to use [it] to do good...give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven—it is the only safe investment for eternity!” (1 Timothy 6:18–19, The Living Bible)

5. IT IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP.

“...[Your gifts] are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God.” (Philippians 4:18, NLT)

“I will bring these people to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. The offerings and sacrifices they place on my altar will please me, because my Temple will be called a house for prayer for people from all nations.” (Isaiah 56:7, NCV)

THANKSGIVING OFFERING – NEXT WEEK!

TWO WAYS TO BE GENEROUS

1. BY REASON

What can I afford?

2. BY REVELATION

God, what do you want to give through me?

THE PROMISE

“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19, NIV84)