

I'M GENEROUS

STAY POSITIVE: Part 4

November 24, 2019 | Pastor Brian

WHAT I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GENEROSITY

1. **GENEROSITY IS A CORE HABIT OF MATURE CHRISTIANS AND HEALTHY CHURCHES.**

"Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches. You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich." (2 Corinthians 8:7-9, NLT)

2. **MY PROBLEMS OR POVERTY DO NOT DICTATE MY GENEROSITY.**

"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. 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." (2 Corinthians 8:2-3, NLT)

Generosity is a matter of my will not my wealth.

3 Levels of Biblical Giving

- **SYSTEMATIC giving**

"I am the LORD All-Powerful, and I challenge you to put me to the test. Bring the entire ten percent into the storehouse, so there will be food in my house. Then I will open the windows of heaven and flood you with blessing after blessing." (Malachi 3:10, CEV)

- **SPECIAL giving**

"...The LORD will choose the one place where the people are to come into his presence and worship him. There you are to offer your sacrifices that are to be burnt and your other sacrifices, your tithes and your offerings, the gifts that you promise to the LORD, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep." (Deuteronomy 12:5-6, TEV)

- **SACRIFICIAL giving**

"Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple." (1 Chronicles 29:3, NIV)

3. **KINGDOM GIVING IS PRIVILEGE NOT A PROBLEM.**

"They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem." (2 Corinthians 8:4, NLT)

4 Characteristics of Good Giving

"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." (2 Corinthians 9:7, NLT)

- Give **PRAYERFULLY** not impulsively.
- Give **VOLUNTARILY** not compulsorily.
- Give **CHEERFULLY** not begrudgingly.
- Give **PROPORTIONATELY** not competitively.

"...Give in proportion to what you have. Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have." (2 Corinthians 8:11-12, NLT)

4. I NEED ENCOURAGEMENT TO BE GENEROUS.

"So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving." (2 Corinthians 8:6, NLT)

"Why do they have to talk about money?"

- **WE ALL NEED REMINDERS.**
"Remind the rich to be generous and share what they have." (1 Timothy 6:18b, CEV)
- **INTENT CANNOT BE SPENT.**
"...Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have." (2 Corinthians 8:10-11, NLT)

5. MY LEVEL OF SACRIFICE REFLECTS MY LEVEL OF SURRENDER.

"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." (2 Corinthians 8:5, NLT)

"Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions." (Mark 10:21-22, NLT)

ACTION STEP:

PRAY ABOUT YOUR GIFT TO THE PEACE OFFERING