

## ✓ 4/4 Intentional Generosity

Wednesday, 18 February 2026 7:48 PM

### Intentional Generosity

#### I. Introduction

##### 1. Jesus Teaching:

- [Jhn 10:10](#) *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it **more abundantly**.*
- **What is Abundance?**
  - Over and above, more than is needed
- **God's Intention is that we live abundant lives as an overflow of our relationship with Him**
  - An abundant life overflows and adds value to people
  - One Key Way we demonstrate that is through Generosity
  - Generosity begins in the heart, and overflows into relationships and life

##### 2. Generosity

- [Pro 11:24](#) **Generosity brings prosperity, but withholding from charity brings poverty.**
- [Pro 11:25](#) *Those who live to bless others will have blessings heaped upon them, and the one who pours out his life to pour out blessings will be saturated with favor. (TPT)*
- **This is a Paradox:**
  - Generosity leads to an increase (Lit to add to) or reaping beyond what we give
  - Withholding from Charity tends to lack in our thinking and relationships and life

##### 1. Intentional Generosity

- [Isa 32:8](#) *But a generous man devises generous things, And by generosity he shall stand.*
  - **"Generous" .... Heb. Nadiyah....Willing hearted, free hearted,**
  - **It also means someone who is princely or noble in mind and character**
- A Generous person has a free spirit and heart to give and bless others
  - A Generous person demonstrates princely or noble thinking and character.
- **A Generous person devises or plans intentionally how he may give. His giving is thoughtful and intentional**
  - His generosity creates a life that is stable and blessed upheld by God
  - His Generosity aligns himself with God's character and causes him to arise and stand firm
  - [Pro 19:17](#) *Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.*
- Intentional Generosity
- Intentional Generosity is choosing, planning and practising generosity as a lifestyle and not an occasional event
  - It flows from a heart that is free and grateful, and desires to please God and be a blessing to others

#### II. The Foundation: God is Generous

##### 1. God is Love:

- [1Jn 4:7](#) *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*
- [1Jn 4:8](#) *He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love**. NKJV*
- **The Bible does not say:**
  - God has love
  - God feels love
  - God shows love
- **The Bible Reveals that the Nature of God is Love**
  - Love is the very essence of His Character, who He is
  - Everything that God does flows from Love
  - God Himself reveals He is abounding in loving kindness (Exod.34:6)
  - God's Love is steadfast and unchanging (Ps.136:1)

##### 2. Love is Generous

- [1Jn 4:9](#) *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.*
- [1Jn 4:10](#) *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*
- [1Jn 4:11](#) *Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*  
(NIV)
- **One Way that Love expresses itself through Intentional Generosity**
  - God does not love accidentally or randomly
  - He loves on purpose with thought and sacrifice
  - Love expresses itself through Generosity or intentional and sacrificial giving
  - God demonstrated the highest form of generosity by giving His most precious gift.
  - The Cross is the ultimate revelation of God's giving heart. (Jn.3:16)
  - You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving

### III. Examples from Jesus Teaching and Life:

#### 1. Example of the Good Samaritan:

- [Luk 10:33](#) *But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, **he had compassion.***
- [Luk 10:34](#) *So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.*
- Jesus taught this Parable to demonstrate that Love is Generous
- **The Samaritan:**
  - Saw the needs
  - Stopped what he was doing
  - Sacrificed time and resources
- **He was moved with compassion and demonstrated both Spontaneous and Intentional Generosity**

#### 2. Example: Parable of Prodigal Son

- [Luk 15:20](#) *"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.*
- Jesus taught this parable to demonstrate the extravagant love of God to the Religious Legalists
  - The Father released his son to be independent and gave him his share of inheritance
  - What caused His son to return was remembering the Abundance and Generosity of his Father
  - [Luk 15:17](#) *"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!*
- **The Father was moved with compassion and demonstrated Intentional Generosity**

#### 3. Jesus Personal Example

- [Act 10:38](#) *how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about **doing good** and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*
  - "Doing Good"....Gk. Euergeteo.....to do good, act as a **benefactor**
  - Root: A Title of Honour conferred on such as had done their country service, and upon princes
- **The Term "Benefactor" was a term well known in the Greco-Roman World**
- **Greco-Roman:**
  - A benefactor was called a "Grace Man" and his gifts were a "Grace Gift" and the recipient owed grace (gratitude /loyalty)
  - Wealthy elites who gave to gain honour, obtain public praise, create social obligation
- **Jewish:**
  - Jews rejected the Greco-Roman benefactor titles because it created obligation, involved public praise and self promotion
  - A benefactor gives because God is generous> He gives without seeking honour and He heals , restores liberates and blesses
- **To the Hebrew People of that day "Doing Good" meant:**
  - To be a Benefactor that imitates God's generosity
  - Feeding the hungry
  - Clothing the poor
  - Supporting widows and orphans
  - Healing the sick
  - Intervening for the oppressed
  - Rescuing the vulnerable
  - Offering hospitality to travelers
  - Do good, things that cause life to flourish
- It was observable, practical and community shaping

- It also carried the meaning of:
  - Covenant faithfulness: God is good....His people must do good
  - Overcoming evil with good
- **In Jewish culture you could not be considered righteous if you were not generous**
  - **“Look at Jesus life. This is what God’s Goodness looks like in action”**
- Jesus is the Ultimate Benefactor

#### IV. **God Expects His Sons and Daughters to be Generous**

##### 1. **The Righteous Man is Generous**

- Proverbs 21:26 (NKJV) *“The righteous gives and does not spare.”*
- *“Righteous” ... Heb. Tsedaqah (צדקה).. also “charity” or “acts of justice.”*
- Righteousness (Tsedaqah) = right relationship expressed through generosity, mercy and justice
- **In Hebrew thinking, righteousness and generosity are inseparable.**
  - In Hebrew thinking righteousness is relational and practical and not just something internal.
  - Generosity is the fruit of righteousness. **You cannot be righteous and stingy at the same time**
  - A righteous person is someone who uses their resources, power and position to do good for others especially the poor and vulnerable
  - To be righteous is to be generous; withholding is seen as unrighteousness.
- **We are in the New Covenant, not Old Covenant Law**
  - We are made righteous by faith in Jesus Christ, not by any works. It is a free gift
  - If we have received such a generous gift from God and become Sons and Daughters
  - We are expected to demonstrate our new identity and status by overflowing in generosity to others
  - Imputed Righteousness vs Practical Righteousness

##### 2. **What is a Son?**

- Son.....Heb. Ben...one who builds his Father’s House
- **A Son represents his Father, reveals what He is like to people and advances his father’s business (Jn.14:9)**
- God expects us to honour Him by representing Him and His Generosity to people and not misrepresenting Him like the Pharisees (Jn.8:44)
- **A key way we represent our Father is by Loving People and demonstrating Generosity**
- **We are Generous because that is who we are, our New Identity, not because people are deserving**

##### 3. **Commands to Love People:**

- [Eph 5:1](#) *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.*
- [Eph 5:2](#) *And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*
- [1Jn 4:11](#) *Dear friends, since God so loved us, **we also ought to love one another.** (NIV)*
- [1Jn 4:8](#) *He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love.** NKJV*
- [1Jn 3:16](#) *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*
- [1Jn 3:17](#) ***But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?***

#### V. **Heart Motivation for Generosity**

##### 1. **What is Motivation?**

- **Motivation is the reason behind what you did.**
  - It is the intention of the heart behind what you did.
  - It is your “Heart Posture”, The Why you did it
- [Pro 16:2](#) *All a person’s ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD. (NIV)*
  - People see what we do, but God sees our Motivation, Why we did it
  - Much of what people do may look good but their motivation may be self-centred.
- [2Co 9:7](#) *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

##### 2. **Wrong Motivation:**

- *Whats in this for me?*
  - Recognition.....To be “seen of men” (Matt.6:1-4)
  - Manipulation.....To obtain something from God or people (Acts. 8:18-23, Lk.6:34)
    - To give with a hidden personal agenda
  - Repayment.....Responding to what another has given (Lk.6:34)
  - Resentment .....Giving grudgingly, heart not in it. (2Cor.9:7)
  - Necessity.....Literally. To bend the arm or pressure. (2Cor.9:7)
- 3. **Biblical Motivation(Heart Posture)**
  - [Luk 6:32](#) *"But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.*
    - [Luk 6:33](#) *And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.*
    - [Luk 6:34](#) *And if you lend to those from whom you hope to . receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back.*
  - [Luk 6:35](#) *But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your **reward will be great, and you will be Sons (huios) of the Most High.** For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.*
  - **Generosity with no agenda demonstrates you are living out your New identity**
    - Genuine love and gratitude towards God. (2Cor.8:8)
    - Desire to Honor God and represent Him. (Prov.3:9, Prov.14:31)
    - To be seen and rewarded by God not me (Matt.6:4)
    - Genuine Compassion for people. (1Jn3:17)
    - Confirm Identity and Child of God. (Luk.6:35)
    - Eternal Reward (True Riches). (Luk.6:35)
    - Obedience to Holy Spirit promptings. (Jn.14:21)

## VI. Who to be Generous To?

### 1. **Parents**

- [Eph 6:2](#) *"Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—*

### 2. **Family**

- [1Ti 5:8](#) *Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

### 3. **The Poor**

- [Pro 19:17](#) *Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.*

### 4. **The Stranger ( People from another Nationality)**

- [Deu 10:18](#) *He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.*
- [Deu 10:19](#) *And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.*

### 5. **The Fatherless (Solo Families, Orphans)**

- [Jas 1:27](#) *Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

### 6. **The Widows (Single Parents)**

- [Jas 1:27](#) *Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

### 7. **Anointed Work of God**

- [2Co 8:1](#) *And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.*
  - [2Co 8:2](#) *In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.*
  - [2Co 8:3](#) *For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own,*
  - [2Co 8:4](#) *they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.*
  - [2Co 8:5](#) *And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.*

## VII. Practical Ways to Practice Generosity

- [Pro 11:25](#) *A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*
- **Practical Ways to be Generous**
  1. **Words**
    - Speaking words of life, love, encouragement, affirmation, appreciation
  2. **Time**
    - Visiting the lonely, mentoring someone, serving voluntarily
  3. **Presence**
    - Showing up and being present when someone is hurting or discouraged
  4. **Expertise/Skills**
    - Helping someone repair something, develop a skill, learn something
  5. **Finances**
    - Giving money to help someone, giving and interest free loan, investing in someone, supporting computers, sowing into charity
  6. **Hospitality**
    - Opening your home to host people, have them for a meal, include at special events
  7. **Emotional Support**
    - Active Listening, Expressing care and concern, helping people with upset feelings or challenging situations
  8. **Volunteer Service**
    - Serving in team at church, serving in community, practical help

## VIII. Generosity Challenge

1. **Generosity is the Overflow of a Heart Surrendered to God**
  - [Jhn 7:38](#) *He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*
  - [Jhn 7:39](#) *But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive;*
    - The heart surrendered to the Holy Spirit overflows with Generosity
    - The heart that is set on self preservation withholds or gives conditionally
  - **Question: Am I "A Taker" or am I "A Giver"?**
    - Does my life overflow with Generosity or am I known for 'Being Tight'?
    - Do I add value in my relationships and community or extract it?
    - Do I see myself as an Owner or a Steward of what I possess?
2. **Practical Steps you can take**
  1. **Daily Surrender your Heart and Resources to The Lord**
    - Pray for opportunities to give, to be generous
    - Ask Holy Spirit to open your heart and eyes to see needs
  2. **Resolve Hindrances to Generosity**
    - Generational Meanness
    - Background Trauma
    - Fear of Lack/Poverty
  3. **Plan and structure Intentional Giving**
    - Finances....an account for generosity
    - Time.....costly commitments
    - Serving .....team, community
  4. **Listen to Holy Spirit prompts to give and serve people**
    - Respond when sense compassion
    - Act quickly when Holy Spirit prompts you to give
- [Pro 11:25](#) *A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

