

Let's pray together:

“Father, thank You for being incredibly generous. You have given us Your Son, the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, this world, people we love, beauty, grace, and even the trials that shape us into the image of Jesus. Your generosity has no limit. Help me participate in Your generous nature. Forgive me for selfishness, scarcity thinking, and worrying that there will not be enough. Teach me to trust You more. I welcome Your leadership and lordship in every area of my life and surrender to Your will. My life is Yours for the fame of King Jesus. Amen.”



**Lance (23),
Darlene (23),
Matthew and
Sara
(Fall 1994)**

BECOMING: A LIFESTYLE OF RADICAL GENEROSITY

PART EIGHTEEN

**A closed heart and hand are
determined to protect what we've
achieved, accumulated, and
worked hard for.**

What we know to be true is that a generous life is limited by budgets and bills, and fears and worries, so we live dissatisfied while quietly longing to trust God, ourselves, and others.

**We shouldn't begin with,
*"How much should I give to God?"***

**Instead, we should ask,
*"Since everything belongs to God,
how does He want me to manage
what He has entrusted to me for
the blessing of others and the glory
of His name?"***

The Father has already given us everything we need through Christ to live and give generously.

Generosity is not GIVE MORE.

Generosity is TRUST MORE.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: 'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.' Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will

also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 NIV

“Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

2 Peter 1:4 NIV

Generosity's Beginning:

Why can I trust God to be generous?

- **Creation is God's generosity.**
- **Covenant is God's generosity.**
- **The Gospel is God's generosity.**

Generosity:

The willingness to share God's resources for God's purposes because we trust God's provision.

Generosity's Requirement: **What does trust need?**

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**As trust grows, we release control,
surrender our agenda, value God above
comfort, and see people through His
eyes.**

Generosity's Enemies:

Why is trusting God difficult sometimes?

- **Fear**
- **Greed and Envy**
- **Pride**
- **Hard-heartedness**

Generosity's Hope:
Why can I continue trusting God?

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Why can I continue trusting God?

Because God provides, replenishes, sees, and rewards, we can trust Him with open hands and a generous heart.



**Steven Bartlett (Diary of a CEO Podcast) and
Christian Apologist John Lennox**

“One of the most compelling arguments for God that you have presented is you. You have a peace and a contentment that so many of us are looking for.”

**Steve Bartlett
Diary of a CEO Podcast Host**

Generosity's Expression:

What does trusting God look like?

- **Resources**
 - Financial
 - Hospitality
- **Relationship**
 - Encouragement
 - Forgiveness/Compassion
- **Ministry**
 - Time/Presence
 - Gifts

Next Steps:

Answer:

How is my decision to give formed? Is it only by the first step of faithfully tithing or by a growing willingness to manage all I have with open hands for God's purposes? (Resources)

Next Steps:

Answer:

How consistently am I using my words and my heart to build others up through encouragement, forgiveness, and compassion rather than withholding grace? (Relationship)

Next Steps:

Answer:

Am I faithfully managing my time and my gifts by being present with people and intentionally serving them? (Ministry)

**Generosity is what it looks like
to trust the One who gave
everything first.**