

## MONEY BAG: Practicing Kingdom Economics - Money and Generosity

Icebreaker: Name one or two ways you have personally experienced generosity.

*A generous life is a blessed life...*

*A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. (Prov. 11:25)*

*“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35b)*

Do you agree with the above point and the passages that support it?

**Godly generosity with money...** Read 1 Corinthians 8:2. What is the potential irony of the Macedonians in this verse?

- **Will go the extra mile sometimes** – “For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.” (2 Cor. 8:3a) – How might one give “beyond their ability?” Are there any examples of this in your life/group?

¶ **Radical generosity: giving to the point that it can hurt** – “They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on.” (Mark 12:44)

- **Is not forced or pressured** – “Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.” (2 Cor. 8:3b-4) What phrase in the passage above describes how Godly generosity “is not forced or pressured?”
- **Is how we meet needs and awaken gratitude** – “This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.” (2 Cor. 9:12)
- **Is measured by the size of the heart, not the size of the gift** – “For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.” (2 Cor. 8:12)
- **Knows that it is God’s to give** – “Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me.” (Job 41:11)
- **Will glorify God** – “Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.” (2 Cor. 9:13)

*But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving. (2 Cor. 8:7)*

On a scale of 0-10, how generous are you with the money bag God has given you? If you are lower on that scale, what is needed in your life from the above point(s) that would allow you to give more? If high on that scale, which point(s) above has proven to be true to you in the area of generosity?