

# Forward In Generosity

The Heart of the Matter

Over the last few weeks we've been talking about growing in our spiritual disciplines

## Week 1

- Praying
- Fasting
- Reading God's Word

## Week 2

- Growing in our Love for Others
- God showed up in the house

## Week 3 (last week)

- Growing in Service

This morning, we're going to be talking about moving forward in Generosity.

## Misconceptions about Generosity

- Generosity is always about money – False
- Generosity is only for people who have a lot of resources – False

## ***SO what is Generosity and how can we move forward in 2023***

- In it's purest form Generosity is the:
  - ***Quality or characteristic of being noble or having a kindly spirit.***

## The 7 different forms of Generosity

1. Thoughts
2. Words
3. Money
4. Time
5. Things
6. Influence
7. Attention

Matthew 6 Jesus begins to teach the disciples about Generosity. The idea of allowing God to touch our hearts to become generous people is hard. By nature we are self-pleasing people.

### **Matthew 6:1-4**

“Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. <sup>4</sup> Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

When you and I begin to allow God to change our hearts and make us more generous, our natural response is to do for others. Jesus’ instructions are that if you are generous towards someone, that you don’t make a big deal of it. Why?

Generous people are led from their heart and are moved by compassion in Humility. Jesus spoke about being Generous with our resources in the opening verses.

### **Matthew 6:5-14**

<sup>5</sup> “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

<sup>7</sup> “When you pray, don’t babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. <sup>8</sup> Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! <sup>9</sup> Pray like this:

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,  
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. Because Generosity is a heart issue, it will spill over into every other aspect of our lives, including our personal relationship with the Father. If you look at the Lord’s prayer you will realize that it’s not self-seeking, but generous in nature. How do we know that,

***Vs. 14 –<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you***

### **Matthew 6:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

### **Matthew 6:22-24**

<sup>22</sup> “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. <sup>23</sup> But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

<sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.**

Out of all the things, Jesus makes it a point to mention that money is a master. It can have an impact on all areas of our lives.

When you and I learn to be generous and we put the Lord in the right place in our heart, he honors your finances. He takes care of us. How?

The principle of generosity! **When we give generously to the Lord, he takes care of us**

### **Matthew 6:25-34**

<sup>25</sup> “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? <sup>27</sup> Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? <sup>28</sup> “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, <sup>29</sup> yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. <sup>30</sup> And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

<sup>31</sup> “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. **<sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.**

<sup>34</sup> “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

Our main objective is **Seek the Kingdom of God and live righteously**. If we are wanting to move forward in 2023 than we must allow God to mold us into Generous People. When we become Generous People, we can then become a generous church! It's a collective effort!

I want to be able to be a church that sends out more missionaries, that helps out the community with needs, that helps anyone that calls Rockaway AG home. Not so that we get recognition, so that God gets glorified. So that we make His name known and so that we make more room for people to know Jesus.

We get really uncomfortable when we talk about money, but I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't talk about it. Just like I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't talk about the

- The End Times
- Sin
- Serving others
- Love
- Family
- Marriage
- Singleness
- Struggles

## **2 Corinthians 9:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. **<sup>7</sup> 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."** <sup>8</sup> And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. <sup>9</sup> As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor.

Their good deeds will be remembered forever."

**On March 26<sup>th</sup> we will be making our Faith Promise Commitment for 2023.**

This is between you and God. This is a chance to where we ask God to stir our heart to give in Faith! If it's easy then it won't require faith, it's not a faith promise. This is also an above and beyond gift. So if you give your tithe/offering to the church, that's not what this is, don't take from that to give to missions. This is above and beyond that. This is why I am asking you to pray, because it's going to require PRAYER!

Prayer – Lord, as I make you Master over my life, make me generous!