

Our Generous God

- **Opening Announcements**
- **Opening Prayer**

Q: When you think of people who are generous in your life, who comes to mind? Why?

Q: Do you see God as generous? Why?

Q: In your estimation, do you believe the world sees God as generous? Why? Why not?

Transition: *In the following discussion on Our Generous God, we'll primarily be looking at two places in scripture: Proverbs and 2 Corinthians. In both the Old and New Testaments, we see God's generosity AND His calling to US to be like Him! Notice that while we often think of generosity in material terms, it is MUCH MORE than that! Keep this in mind as we consider the following!*

READ: Proverbs 11:25 *"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."*

Q: Why do you think that when you "bring blessing" or "water", you are "enriched" or "watered" in return?

READ: 2 Corinthians 8:9 *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you, by his poverty might become rich."*

Q: According to this verse, what is the best way to see God's generosity?

Q: How can Jesus' example, inform US in how we live and are generous?

READ: 2 Corinthians 9: 10-12 *"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹² For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God."*

Q: According to this passage, WHO is the "source" or all our provision? Why is this important to understand?

Q: How might God's generosity inspire OUR generosity?

Q: What are some barriers to living out this reality?

READ: Proverbs 22:9 *"Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor."*

Q: What is the promise for those with a "bountiful eye"? What IS a "bountiful eye"?

Q: "Who" does the one with the "bountiful eye" share his bread? Why is there blessing with this?

READ: 2 Corinthians 8:9 *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."*

Q: What does this verse say about Jesus?

Q: How does generosity demonstrate "grace"?

Q: What is the blessing/benefit of God's generosity?

READ: 2 Corinthians 9:6 *"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."*

Q: What is the principle here? How have you seen this to be true (in whatever way)?

Q: How might that inspire you to be "more" generous?

Additional Texts To Consider/Inspire:

Ephesians 2:4-10 *"But God, being **RICH in mercy**, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

James:3:17-18 *"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, **FULL of mercy and good fruits**, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."*