

# Keep the Faith: Lessons from Africa (Week 4)

July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## “GENEROSITY”

### REVIEW:

- Why this series? Christians are living according to the pattern of this world, and they look like the world as a result.
- Our goal is to help people become mature in Christ.

**Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)** *<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

### Christianity is different—Jesus called us to be **DIFFERENT!**

- We are called to be like God.
- We are becoming more and more like Christ.
- This is good for us and brings great glory to God.
- **Romans 8:29; 1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)**

## **A GODLY LIFE IS A GENEROUS LIFE—1 Timothy 6:3-18 (NIV)**

### Generosity vs. Selfishness

- Definition—to be liberal giver—to be open handed.
- When we think of generosity, we may define it in different ways.
- God’s character and Word—Living Word defines it for Christians.
- Sometimes we think there are 2 categories of people—generous and selfish.

### We give what we have:

- Even if it is evil—if bitterness is in our heart, we give it generously.
- Some give a lack of forgiveness.
- Some withhold love or approval.
- **Matthew 12:34-36 (NIV)**

### We give toward what we love—we are all generous toward something.

- We give toward something because we believe it will do \_\_\_\_\_ for us.
- **Matthew 6:21 (NIV)**

## **NOTICE A GODLY LIFE IS A GENEROUS LIFE—(As God Defines It)—1 Tim. 6:18 (NIV)**

- God is a giver.
- What kind of giver—love is “*go give what they need at my expense.*”
- **Matthew 5:43-45; James 1:17 (NIV)**

## **QUESTION: WHERE DOES GENEROSITY COME FROM?**

### 1. Generosity comes from a different standard of measurement (vs. 6).

- Godliness and contentment are true wealth.
- They have chosen to see the eternal things rather than the temporary.

- They will take what they have been given and choose to be satisfied with it.
- There will be many who think they are wealthy, and they are not.
- There are many in the church that think they can use God to get physical pleasure.
- Many give to get; not because they love.

A. We care about wealth—we just have a different understanding of what it is.

B. We are trying to acquire wealth—eternal wealth—how you gain it (**vs. 19**).

## 2. Generosity comes from a thankful, “worshipful” heart (**vs. 8,17**).

- They focus on things that they need—food and clothing—things we take for granted.
- They focus on what God has done for them in Christ—salvation.
- They are not proud—as if they deserve better than what they have.
- They are not proud—as if they worked for and earned what they have (**vs. 17**).
- They acknowledge that they have been given much—they can see it.
- The scarcity mentality vs. the grateful mentality.
- Rather than worshipping their gifts, they worship the Giver.
- **1 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)**

## 3. Generosity comes from a confident hope—trust (**vs. 17**).

- They trust in God for their future.
- Their hope is in God who richly gives us what we truly need.
- **Psalms 20:7-8 (NIV)**

## 4. God’s promises to us:

A. What you give will not be forgotten—you are storing up treasure in heaven.

B. God will bless those who give (**2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV**).

C. God will use what we give to bring Him glory and us good (**2 Corinthians 9:10-11 NIV**).

## SOME SUGGESTIONS:

1. Make an honest assessment –what are you generous with and to?
2. If you are not generous as God defines it, then confess it and repent.
3. If you don’t know how or where to start, get help—talk with one of our Elders or Pastoral Team.
4. Step out in faith and be obedient.
5. Carefully watch to see what God does next in your spiritual life, relational life, and financial life.
6. Praise God for it.