

## MSG: RE:DEFINE GENEROSITY

Series: Live Generously

Scripture: 2 Cor. 9:10 NIV, Col. 1:15-17 NIV

2 Cor. 9:10 NIV

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.”

Col. 1:15-17

'The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. '

## GENEROUS LIVING IS A LIFESTYLE OF WORSHIP

This lifestyle of worship surrendered to God as David proclaimed in Psalms 24:1, “The Earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, The World and all who live it it”

The generous life cripples the tendency of capitalism, to simply amass as much as you possibly can, at the expense of human dignity, loss of our connected sensibilities, & betrayal of friends. A system that oppresses through the demonic relegation of people created in the image of God to a permanent underclass bound by systemic poverty using wicked laws, divisive financial systems & heinous political structures.

But rather GENEROSITY EMPHATICALLY disrupts this end, to use EVERYTHING THAT WE HAVE TO GLORIFY AND HONOR GOD. WITH A RADICALLY OPEN HANDEDNESS TO OUR NEIGHBORS, THE LEAST OF THESE and GOD! SO HOW DO WE RE: DEFINE GENEROSITY...WE MUST RE: DEFINE GENEROSITY

## 1. RE: DEFINE STEWARDSHIP

SIMPLY EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD

STEWARD OUR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE WELL

Steward = Manager

STEWARD THE SMALL WELL TO INCREASE THE LARGE WELL

## 2. RE: DEFINE GIVING

GIVING IS AS AN ACT OF WORSHIP

Romans 12:1

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship”

Tithing is a practice that God initiated with the children of Israel in the Old Testament. This practice of giving ten percent of all that was brought in, to God was required for God's people to remain blessed, fruitful and bountiful. This sacrificial gift was a means for His people to remember everything belongs to God.

Thankfully in the New Testament, God gave his Son Jesus, sacrificially for us. God no longer requires us to ritual animal sacrifices or fruits and vegetables. He asks that our lives are “living sacrifice” surrendered to God.

## GIVING OUR TITHE ESTABLISHES GOD AS OUR PRIORITY

Our sacrifice today includes our tithe. We have the privilege of giving our “first fruits” the firsts of our income, gains and blessings back to God.

The reference of the “Tithe” , giving a tenth, is now the entry the point, the bare minimum, the splendid opportunity to participate in building His kingdom through the local church. We get to express our surrendered heart in our tithe to the Father. We get to express our worship to God through our giving.

We are invited to give sacrificially to constantly keep our hearts and affections fixed on Jesus and not ruled or lorded over by money. We gladly and cheerful give!

## GIVING OPENS OUR LIVES TO THE BLESSING OF GOD

This posture in exchange keeps us available for the God to “open the open the Windows of Heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:10).

### PRACTICALLY:

\*Create a zero based budget for the upcoming month, while eliminating any debt.

## 3. RE:DEFINE PROSPERITY

Matt. 6:33

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

## PROSPERITY PROCEEDS KINGDOM PRIORITY

I think Jesus helps us have a really clear picture of how we live in a material world with a mandate from Heaven for the Body.

This passage provides us the frame work and prioritizes our affection and ambition to passionately pursue and discover the Kingdom of God, His rulership and authority, and our right standing with him. Including, all that He desire of us both personally, individually but also collectively as apart of His Church. And simple as “side effect” or “fringe benefit” almost matter of factly, “things are added”

You can't add to something that isn't there in the first place.

God doesn't add blessing to unfaithfulness

I think God works with our faithfulness and even uses generosity which leads to prosperity to even further his mission and purpose through US! That's grace! We get to steward, reap the benefits of something that is not ours- his World and his provision.

Then get to pour those blessings back into his mission.

This cyclic model I believe is present anywhere when the activity of God is present. His life producing, multiplying intention for his Kingdom to grow!

**PROSPERITY IS THE RESULT OF FAITHFULNESS TO GOD**

Faithful in my relationship to God

Faithful to the work of God

Faithful to serving others

Faithful to the resources, job, skills, gifts and opportunities.

**HAVE INTEGRITY!!!**

**\*\*\*DON'T BE SHADY, JANKY, SKETCH, SUS or RAGGEDY\*\*\*\***

## PROSPERITY OCCURS WHEN WE SOW THE SEED GOD SUPPLIED

2 Cor. 9:10 NIV

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.”

To do well in every area of your life and achieve your goals.

Flows out of our obedience to God

\*Humility not servility

Succeed at His Purpose

I believe it is God's will that we live a prosperous life. In our relationship with God and all his spiritual blessings he makes available to us. The Lord want our relationships with other to prosper. Our in physical, emotional and even social health experiences prosperity. As a result of faithfulness to God, being a good steward and heart that prioritizes His kingdom expansion, I believe our finances should prosper as well.

\*AS WE SOW GOD SUPPLIES MORE SEED

- Sower is a lifestyle

- Being vs Doing

-AS A SOWER YOU ARE A PERPETUAL HARVESTER

-Takeaway- set a giving goal as a part of you annual planning

-Sower as and Identity

-God is always interested in multi

-AS OUR FAITH GROWS, WE SOW MORE

-Set a goal of generosity

-God Identify seed to sowers who identify exactly how they will sow

-Expect God to supernaturally provides the seed

-Faith is grown this way.