

The Power of a Generous Hand

Generosity is the language of God. We are created to live in the abundance that Jesus provides (see John 10:10). It is an abundance that God “lavishly” pours over us (see Ephesians 1: 3-8). Learning to tap into the generosity of God is an amazing adventure! It does require that we let go of our old, stingy concepts of God, especially concepts that paint a picture of a god that has time for everyone else *except* me and those I love. If we aren’t experiencing God’s riches, then we are better off looking to improve our receptivity instead of blaming God for our lack.

God’s greatest demonstration of generosity is His Son’s continued love for us, even as we mocked and murdered Him.

Romans 8:31-32 ³¹ *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?* ³² *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*

As we surrender ourselves to God’s generosity in the Cross, we begin to see and to live life in a whole new way! We start to discover a vast resource for living with joy and purpose! We enter in to a rich relationship with Jesus and his ever-flowing love.

Yet, our old value systems are definitely challenged by God’s economy:

Luke 12:32-34 ³² *Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.* ³³ *Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys.* ³⁴ *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Our stinginess is questioned and our selfishness revealed. Jesus invites us to give as freely as He has given. In so doing, we will discover outpourings of God’s power in our lives (as He becomes our “treasure”):

Matthew 10:8 ⁸ *Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.*

As our generosity grows, so does our capacity to do mighty works in His Name.

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Some practical ways to flow in the generosity of God:

- ▶ **Begin tithing.** A tithe is 1/10 of your income that is offered to God’s work as a “Thank you!” for all He gives. It is an “investment” in the service of His Kingdom. Prayerfully put together a **spending plan** to use the other 90% of what you make to also be a witness of God’s relentless love. Your checkbook says a lot about your spiritual priorities.

Malachi 3:10 ¹⁰ *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.*

- ▶ **Seek creative ways to bless others.** Look for God-engineered opportunities to give others your time and support. Step out in faith to volunteer to meet a need in your community. Lovingly listen to someone who you’d normally avoid.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 ⁶ *Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.* ⁷ *Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* ⁸ *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed...*

- ▶ **Be generous with other’s faults.** If offended by someone, *release* the emotional hurt into Jesus’ nail-scarred hands and *replace* it with a blessing directed right at the offender! Refocus your attention from your wounds to the healing power of God in Christ. Trust God for your wholeness! Baby steps!

1 Peter 4:8-10 ⁸ *Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.* ⁹ *Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.* ¹⁰ *God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you.*



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