

Generosity

Giving freely and liberally as stewards of God's blessings

Biblical generosity begins with recognizing God's ownership of all things. "The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof" (Psalms 24:1). We are stewards, not owners—managers of resources that belong to another. This perspective transforms giving from reluctant obligation to joyful privilege.

God's generosity sets the standard for ours. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16). The Father gave His best; the Son gave His life. Such lavish divine giving calls forth proportionate human response. "Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Scripture promises that generosity produces blessing. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over" (Luke 6:38). This is not prosperity gospel but divine principle: those who sow bountifully reap bountifully. God entrusts more to those who prove faithful in giving, not to enrich them but to expand their capacity for generosity.

The heart matters more than the amount. The widow's two mites exceeded the rich men's offerings because "she of her want did cast in all that she had" (Mark 12:44). God measures giving by sacrifice, not sum. Cheerful, willing, sacrificial giving honors God regardless of the dollar amount.

God's Generosity

Divine giving as our model

John 3:16 — God gave His only Son

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2 Corinthians 8:9 — Christ became poor for us

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Romans 8:32 — Freely give us all things

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

James 1:17 — Every good gift from above

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Principles of Giving

How to give biblically

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 — Sow bountifully, cheerful giver

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Mark 12:41-44 — Widow's mites, giving sacrificially

And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

Matthew 6:3-4 — Give in secret

But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

1 Corinthians 16:2 — Give as God has prospered

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Promises to the Generous

Blessings for those who give

Luke 6:38 — Give and it shall be given

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Proverbs 11:25 — Liberal soul made fat

The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

Malachi 3:10 — Prove me, open windows of heaven

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Acts 20:35 — More blessed to give than receive

I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Supporting Ministry

Giving to the Lord's work

Galatians 6:6 — Share with those who teach

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 — Elders worthy of double honor

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

Philippians 4:15-18 — Supporting Paul's ministry

Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

3 John 1:5-8 — Fellow helpers to the truth

Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;