

“’Tis the Season”

“Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!”
Ephesians 5:16 The Message

“To Be Generous!”

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”
2 Corinthians 9:6

A. Generosity is a biblical principle...

“Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, ‘They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.’ For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!” 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

1. Generosity originated with God.
2. Generosity must come from a cheerful heart.
3. Generosity allows God to show His provision to us.
4. Generosity has an eternal impact.
5. Generosity, in the name of Jesus, brings praise to God.
6. Generosity is an act of obedience.
7. Generosity produces generosity in multiple ways.

B. Generosity changes my world...

1. Generosity draws me closer to God.

“Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”
Matthew 6:21

2. Generosity is a characteristic of the godly.
“Some people are always greedy for more, but the godly love to give!”
Proverbs 21:26

3. Generosity invests in eternal treasures.
“Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.” 1 Timothy 6:17-19

4. Generosity is commanded but also tells us to test God in this experiment of giving.
“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,’ says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, ‘I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!”
Malachi 3:10

5. Generosity brings God’s blessing.
“Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor.”
Proverbs 22:9

6. Generosity brings joy to the giver.
“And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35

7. Generosity increases my world!
“The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.” Proverbs 11:24 The Message

C. Generosity is for all of us...

“Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do. So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. I am not

commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches. You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich. Here is my advice: It would be good for you to finish what you started a year ago. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have. Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don’t have. Of course, I don’t mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality. Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal. As the Scriptures say, ‘Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough.’” 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

1. Generosity comes from the heart, not your financial worth.
2. Generosity brings great joy.
3. Generosity is based on what you have, not on what you don’t have.
4. Generosity is motivated by the fact that we are blessed and we want to be a blessing!

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”
—Winston Churchill

D. How will you demonstrate generosity this week?

“’Tis the Season to be Generous!”

Seasonal Sermon Series:

“’Tis the Season...”

“Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!” Ephesians 5:16 The Message

A Sermon Series Focusing on the Virtues of the Season

December 17, 2017 – To Be Compassionate!

December 24, 2017 – To Be Full of Faith!

December 31, 2017 – To Be Hopeful!