



The Motivation for Generosity

Sermon Discussion Guide

February 18, 2018

Ice Breaker: Imagine you lost your wallet and needed to buy gas in order to make it home. If you found a five dollar bill in your pocket, would you give it away to a street beggar, trusting God to provide a way for you to get home?

Open in prayer

One of FTC's core values is Biblical generosity. Some of the causes we are able to support through the generosity of people like you are listed below:

- Midnight Mission
 - Westside Pregnancy Clinic
 - Food Bank - feed 35-50 every week
 - Convoy of Hope - over \$10,000 - feeding 83 kids everyday
 - Africa's Hope - clean drinking water, planting churches - over \$11,000
 - 20+ Missionaries
 - 2 church plants
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- Can you recall a time when someone gave you something with no expectation of anything in return? What happened? How did it impact you?
 - If you tithe, how did you come to the decision to do so? How has tithing impacted your life?
 - As Christians, what should be our motivation for giving?

The Big Idea: The heart behind our generosity matters as much as our gift. When we give with selfless generosity we are being like Jesus. The blessed life is about allowing God to use us to be a blessing to others.

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

- Where does Paul encourage us to put our hope?
- Can you recall a time when God provided by meeting a specific need or prayer? What happened?

- How does placing our hope in money affect our ability to give?
- Pastor Loren said, "Money lies to us." How does money lie to us? What are some of the lies money tells?
- How does the object of our focus and trust affect our generosity?



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- Generosity is a characteristic of God. Share some ways you have witnessed God's generosity in your life.
- Why do you think God invented giving and tithing? Whom does it benefit most?
- Pastor Loren said, "Giving frees us." How do you think that is so?

Words Commonly Used in the Bible			
Believe	Pray	Love	Give
289	367	686	1,433

The church does not talk about giving because it wants something from you. It talks about giving because we want something for you. More than anything else it reflects the heart of God. It is the verb of the Bible. John 3:16. People truly impacted by God's generosity, in turn become generous, like God.

Background on text - Paul planted churches across modern day Turkey. He had a deep devotion of the mother church...the church in Jerusalem. The church in Jerusalem was struggling and Paul felt God speaking to him to call the churches he planted to give the church in Jerusalem an offering.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-12

- What type of conditions were being faced by the Macedonians? What was their response?
- What does it look like to be generous beyond giving money?
- Do you ever give sacrificially? Explain.

We see several things in Paul's encouragement that apply to us today. **Five things from this text.**

1. Give joyfully.

"Some people are always greedy for more, but the godly love to give!" (Proverbs 21:26 NLT)



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Acts 20:35 - "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

2. Give selflessly.

"And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us." (2 Corinthians 8:5 NIV)

When God was generous he didn't give you a check. **He gave you himself.**

3. Give willingly.

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable..." (2 Corinthians 8:5 NIV)

4. Give thankfully.

"What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?" (Psalm 116:12 NIV)

5. Give intentionally.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV)

God's Promise: You cannot outgive God.

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." (2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV)