

Heart-Felt Experience

“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God” (2 Corinthians 9:11).

Everything in your life flows from your heart. Today’s message is NOT about money, so don’t you dare stop reading. Generosity is really about how you treat others and it is an expression of God’s love to others through your actions. It’s the outflowing of His presence through your life.

Paul describes generous giving as a heart-felt experience led by the Holy Spirit. The real test of your character comes with giving away what’s important to you. Generosity is not always about giving money or valuables to others. It is the desire to give according to God’s will. Generosity is a principle sewn into the fabric of God’s Word and ways. The definition of Generosity is defined as:

***The quality of being kind, understanding, generous and not selfish:**
Including the willingness to give money or other valuable things to others.*

Did you catch the first part of the definition? It is the *quality* of being kind and understanding..... The word quality means a, “degree of excellence.” The quality of being kind, understanding, and not selfish are all true acts of generosity.

You have a choice to be kind or not. You have a choice to be understanding or not. You have a choice to be generous or not. When you refuse to share these acts of generosity, you are not walking in the right way.

“May God give you more and more mercy, peace, and love” (Jude 1:2, NLT).

The best way to give is out of love, gratitude, and obedience to God. God responds to a responsive heart. What am I saying? We all encounter individuals who make walking in love, understanding or kindness difficult. Generosity is really just God’s way of freeing you from self-love.

As you learn to receive more and more from our heavenly Father, you are able to give more and more away. True generosity expects nothing in return. People you encounter every day need all kinds of things. Many times, you may feel like what they really need is a swift kick in the pants, but you must make a choice to be generous with whatever He lays upon our hearts.

That is not to say there are times when some one might need your money, but many times, what they really need is a touch of God’s presence within you. You have been given so much, and are uniquely positioned to give to others because you are rich with the resources of God. Your treatment of the needy and vulnerable around you reveals much concerning your acts of generosity.

According to Luke 6:37-38, to withhold judgment is to act generously, and, in God’s eyes, He promises rewards with the same kind of benevolence—pressed down, shaken together, and running over poured into your lap!

“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you” (Luke 6:37-38).

Your influence expands exponentially when you are motivated by eternity's agenda of generosity to those around you. So today's message is simply this, gladly be a generous servant to all expecting nothing in return knowing the Spirit will draw people to Jesus through your generous acts of grace and love.

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