

CULTIVATING GENEROSITY

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 • March 6, 2022

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INTRODUCTION:

- A. Generosity is an attitude that produces positive impact in life.
- B. Generosity is about choosing to live a life of faith that is seeking to do the most with what God has given.

"He (the master) called together his servants and entrusted his money to them... After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money."
– Matthew 25:14 & 19

I. HOW ARE YOU GROWING?

- A. Are we growing in appreciation of God's blessings?
You must each decide in your heart how much to give. Don't give reluctantly or in response from pressure. [Why?] For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. – 2 Corinthians 9:7
- B. Are we growing in expectation of God's future blessings?
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. – 2 Corinthians 9:6
- C. Are we managing our money – or is it managing us?
 - The greatest use of our resources is to invest in getting people into heaven.
"Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home."
– Luke 16:9
- D. Are you overcoming the obstacles?
 - "I want it, so I'll buy it!" (**consumerism**) Matthew 6:20-21.
 - "I want it, so I'll buy it for me!" (**selfishness**) Luke 12:17-18.
 - "I want it, I can't resist it, I'll buy it anyway!" (**lack of discipline**) Proverbs 6:6-8

II. A GENEROSITY PATHWAY

- A. When it comes to generosity, God's calling is two-fold. We are called to honor Him.
"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse [yours is SCC], test me in this", says the Lord. "See if I won't throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing you won't have room enough for it." – Malachi 3:10
Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing and your vats will brim over with new wine. – Proverbs 3:9
 - We are called to be generous to the poor.
They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever. – 2 Corinthians 9:9
- B. Taking the next step:
 - Those who are **emerging givers** – OK I've listened today and I'm feeling the nudging of the Holy Spirit. I'm ready to start giving to SCC.
 - Those who are **engaging givers** – I have given some but only occasionally.
 - Those who are **expanding givers** – I am giving regularly but it is not yet 10%. I want to grow my giving by ____% until I reach a 10% tithe.
 - Those who are **expecting givers** – I am ready to trust God and give 10% of my income.
 - Those who are **elevating givers** – I give joyfully and generously beyond a tithe both at SCC and in the community, locally and worldwide.

CONCLUSION: