

PROVERBS

The Way of Wisdom

The Cure of Greed: Generosity



Acts 20:35 & Psalm 116:12

What is Generosity?



Definition: Graciously and responsibly placing ourselves and our resources in service to God.

Motive Behind Generosity



People should give generously because they genuinely desire to make a difference for the purpose of Christ. They give in response to the Spirit's urging and feel a soul-sustaining satisfaction in the sense of meaning and connection.



“Hold material goods and wealth on a flat palm
and not in a clenched fist.”

~Alistair Begg

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

Solomon's Take on Generosity

- ☞ the satisfaction we receive when we give.
(11:24-25, 22:9, 19:17)
- ☞ Reveals how we honor the Lord (14:31, 3:9-10)
- ☞. Where we have opportunity we have responsibility (Proverbs 3:27-28)

The Truth of Generosity



True Generosity is an act of obedience. It's not about feeling generous so I'll act generous. When we act generously we will feel the joy of giving.

4 Generous People



The widow of Zarephath
(1 Kings 17:7-16)

**Principle: Generosity is a
response to Faith**



The Shunammite Women (2 Kings 4:8-10)

**Principle: Generosity is offered to
God through the blessing of others**



Joseph of Arimathea
(Matthew 27:57-60)

**Principle: Generosity expects
nothing in return**



The churches of Macedonia
(2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

**Principle: Generosity sees
opportunity instead of limitations**

8 Important Traits of Generosity

- ❧ Generous people often give more than they are asked to give (Exodus 36:1-7)
- ❧ Generous People give in response to a great cause (2 Corinthians 8-9)
- ❧ Generous giving is more than just money (Luke 10:25-37)



- Generous giving isn't about big or small, they give out of poverty (Luke 21:1-4)
- Generous People give even when they differ from one another (Luke 7:1-10)
- Generous People give to see the impossible become possible (Matthew 14:14-21)



- Generous people give as a byproduct of their own personal transformation (Luke 19)
- Generous people will give even if others will not (Philippians 4:15-16)

We can't expect God to reward us when we're focused on our own well-being alone and not helping those around us.

Let generosity overpower greed — and live the life of giving that God has called us to.