

## SO YOU CAN BE GENEROUS

June 23, 2019 2 Corinthians 8:5,7; 9:6-11 by Bob Branch

**BIG IDEA:** Generosity—with time, talent, treasure *and* tithing—is a spiritual discipline that opens up wide vistas of blessing, joy and freedom as we own and practice them.

### A GIVING RATIONALE to move us into a generous lifestyle

<sup>8:5</sup> they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us...

#### 1. Giving our resources is simply part of giving our WHOLE SELVES to Jesus!

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” **Luke 10:27**

<sup>8:7</sup> But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

#### 2. We should aim to be EXCELLENT givers!

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” **Acts 20:35**

<sup>9:6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

#### 3. God’s blessing is PROPORTIONAL to our giving.

“Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” **Luke 6:38**  
NLT

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

**Malachi 3:10**

<sup>9:7</sup> 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.

#### 4. Generosity is a CHOICE and an ATTITUDE.

“I may give away everything I have... but I gain nothing if I do not have love.” **1 Cor. 13:3** NCV (Ps. 50:10)

<sup>9:8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work... <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

#### 5. Our giving actively expresses our TRUST that God is able to provide.

*Blessed-to-be-a-blessing*-people. (**Gen. 12:3**)

- You are the Lord of **all of me**.
- You have **provided** for me.
- **I trust you** with all my life and my money.
- **You have given all** for and to me, how can I give less?
- Give me **more opportunities to give!**

#### CHALLENGE:

Commit to give consistently, even when you are not here.

\$20 Challenge: to have something to give