

BLESSING OF GENEROSITY

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

Three blessings of generosity . . .

I. Great blessings accompany the generous life.

James 1:17 — Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

A. We must prime the pump.

1 Timothy 6:17 — Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

B. Faith yields rewards.

Hebrews 11:6 — And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

II. Generous givers experience a life full of joy.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 — Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

A. Get refreshed.

Proverbs 11:25 — A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

B. Understand and experience all the good things in Christ.

Philemon 1:6 — And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ.

III. God's power abounds in a community of generous givers.

Acts 2:44-47 — All believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need . . . And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

A. Spur one another toward generosity.

Hebrews 10:24-25 — And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

B. Come and share in your Master's happiness.

Matthew 25:21 — His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"
