

# the believer's generosity

November 12, 2023 | Reggie Roberson

**WARM UP QUESTION:** What experiences have you had that caused you to overflow with gratitude?

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

**FOCUS:** For the believer, generosity is motivated by the gospel and for the gospel.

**OBSERVE:**

- In our society we are constantly encouraged to focus on what we can get. It's about how much stuff we can accumulate or hoard. Without us knowing it, this mentality creates trouble for our lives. It creates a lack of thankfulness for what we have and then as a result we also have a lack of contentment which then leads to anxiety and greed. This is all because we are focused on what we can get.
- The underlying issue that creates this downward cycle is that a life of significance is not formed by what we get but rather, by what we give. When we consider this principle, we can easily see that it's the people in your life that bring fond memories to your heart and often those are connected with the ones gave something to you. It may not be financial or material only, but it may have been their time, attention, words of encouragement, comfort, knowledge and expertise.
- Overall, we see that generosity is not only financial, but also your time presence, energy, service, words of comfort and encouragement. If you love Jesus, you will be generous to individuals who are lost, broken and vulnerable; giving to those who can do nothing for you. If you do that you will be doing what God did for you; giving you salvation when you could do nothing for Him; that is the gospel truth.
- Prayer invites God to stir our hearts to go beyond ourselves and be generous because He is the source of true generosity. He is also the source of wisdom that guides our generous decisions.

**TAKING ACTION:**

- Talk with God about where your heart is regarding your finances.
- Talk with others about strategies and resources to help you make wisely steward every area of your life.
- Joining a Discipleship Class at King's Park or taking your next step on the Discipleship Path can help you in this process.

**REFLECT:**

- Describe a moment where you felt that you were making a self-sacrificial decision. What was challenging about that situation? Also, what was rewarding?
- Reflect on a time when someone was unexpectedly generous to you through their time, resources, finances or affection. What impact did that have on you?

**PRAY:**

*God, You are the ultimate steward of this world and of our lives, we choose to trust You with all that we have. Help us to make decisions that honor You and that are in alignment with Your will and Your word. We desire to please You, we ask that the meditations of our hearts would be pleasing to You. Empower us to live boldly for Your Kingdom, in Jesus' name I pray, amen!*