

the believer's generosity

November 19, 2023 | Reggie Roberson

WARM UP QUESTION: What do you consistently prioritize in your schedule?

READ: 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Proverbs 3:9-10; Hebrews 1:3; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

FOCUS: The believer's generosity should be periodic and personal.

OBSERVE:

- The dividends of giving to the Lord are not primarily financial but spiritual in nature. The rewards are eternal. When giving to the Lord's mission, we show we value it while drawing near to God through our serving. God asks that we be generous with our time, talent and treasure for His kingdom purposes. We help in advancing God's kingdom when we give.
- The believer's generosity should be periodic (rhythmic) and personal - not random. We should set aside a sum of money to give on the first day of every week in addition to any extra acts of kindness or financial gifts as we help build the Kingdom. This is a spiritual discipline. The goal of spiritual disciplines are to help us grow as disciples of Christ. The goal is not to make us legalistic but to deepen our love for God. The results shape us to be more like Jesus Christ.
- God gives us more than we could ever give back to Him. Jesus gives breath to our lungs, joy to our hearts, strength to our bodies and salvation to our souls. We can never outgive God. God is our source, and we should honor Him in response to what He does for us. God requires us to be faithful and generous stewards over all He entrusts us with.
- Diffusion of responsibility is a sinful trap we fall into because usually we are focused on ourselves and not on others or God. Each of us has the responsibility to serve well and to invest into the Kingdom and with a sincere motive to support legitimate causes and needs. We should possess a spirit of sacrifice rather than holding back from God. Also, we must have a sense of vision and be able to recognize need and opportunity and respond to God's direction when it comes to giving and/or serving.

TAKING ACTION:

- *Pray and ask God how you can be generous with your time, talents and treasures in both a periodic and personal way.*
- *Attend Growth Track and see how you can serve and be part of what God is doing in and through the local church.*

REFLECT:

- What areas of your life is it hard for you to be generous with?
- What causes you to diffuse responsibility when God might be prompting you to action?
- How can you grow in generosity and being a cheerful giver?

PRAY:

Heavenly Father, thank You for our daily bread. Thank You for causing us to succeed and to flourish and for abundantly blessing us. You have been better to us than we deserve. We honor and praise You through our giving. With gratitude, we thank You for all You have done for us and for the kindness You have shown us. Help us make Godly decisions with all You have entrusted to us. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.