

## **SERIES REVIEW:**

- Week 1: Diligence & earning wisely leads to provision.
- Week 2: Contentment & spending wisely creates margin.
- Week 3: Generosity gives that margin meaning.

This message explores why generosity is a wise and transformative way of life, not just a financial decision. We will see how giving reflects God's heart, loosens money's grip on us, and becomes a practical way God shows His love through us. Generosity is framed as an act of worship and discipleship that shapes our hearts and trust in Him.

Acts 20:35, ... *Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

## **3 REASONS IT'S BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO GET:**

### **1. Generosity is a way that God transforms our heart.**

- Generosity's Theological Foundation:
  - God is generous by nature. He created Earth to enjoy and gave us His Son to save us.
  - We were created in His image, so giving reflects design.
- Generosity's Mindset:
  - We have to move from a scarcity mindset to a gospel abundance mindset.
  - We don't give to get something from God, we give because we already have everything in Christ (Ephesians 1 & Hebrews 12:28).
  - God is not after guilt-based giving (Philippians 4:17).
  - He's trying to give us abundant life (2 Corinthians 9:7)

### **2. Generosity is a way to break money's grip on our heart.**

- The Problem Money Creates:
  - Money deceives us that we're self-sufficient (Deuteronomy 8:17-18).
  - Left unchecked, accumulation becomes idolatry.
  - Scripture warns against storing blessing without purpose (Luke 12:16-21)
- How Generosity Breaks That Grip:
  - Giving is our warfare against idolatry of materialism.
  - We don't defeat greed by earning more, but through giving more.
- How God Does This Through Generosity:
  - Giving stretches trust in God in ways saving never will.
  - Giving tests our faith in God practically (Malachi 3:10).
  - Remember, God is after our hearts (Matthew 6:21).

### 3. Generosity is a way God shows the hurting His heart.

- Giving Shows the Needy God is Compassionate:
  - God loves the poor & hurting (Psalm 34:18; 146:7-9).
  - It's no surprise that God promises to repay (Proverbs 19:17).
  - He attaches His name and faithfulness to the outcome.
- How Can We Help When We Need Money Ourselves:
  - God measures our faithfulness, sacrifice and joy, not specific amounts.
  - Remember, Jesus loved the widow's heart in giving sacrificially (Mark 12:41-44), even though it was small.
  - Unless we learn to be generous when we have little, we won't be generous when we have more.
  - The real question is not "how much?" but "how willing?"

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### THE GENEROSITY JOURNEY.

Text "[generosity](#)" to learn more about the four common stages of a believer's **GENEROSITY JOURNEY**.

The Generosity Journey includes four giving stages, each designed to help you grow at your own pace. Wherever you are, there's no guilt, only an invitation to move forward when God prompts you. Take a moment to honestly identify which step best describes where you are today, and thank God for the work He's already doing in your life. Each step below includes a call to read Scripture, reflect in prayer, and respond when you're ready to take your next step of faith with God at Cornerstone.

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### THE 90-DAY MALACHI TEST

Text "[Malachi](#)" to learn more about the **90-DAY MALACHI TEST**.

In Malachi 3:10, God uniquely invites His people to "test" Him by trusting Him with their giving. The Malachi Test is a personal 90-day commitment to give faithfully and intentionally through the local church, trusting God with your finances and your future. Why 90 days? Sometimes a trial period is long enough to build a habit and short enough to take a step of faith. This is not a promise of financial gain or a guarantee of a specific outcome. Rather, it's an invitation to step out in faith and experience God's faithfulness as He works in your heart, priorities, and trust in Him.

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