

GATEWAYS

A pair of hands, palms up, holding a large stack of coins. The coins are stacked high, with some showing the obverse and others the reverse. The lighting is warm and golden, highlighting the texture of the hands and the metallic sheen of the coins. The background is dark and out of focus.

GENEROSITY FACTOR

IT'S MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE



Gateways: Generosity

Generosity – Key Topic

- 25% of Jesus teaching about money
- 16 of 29 parables use money
- 2350 times addressed in Scripture
- Generosity bigger than money....
 - teaches what you really believe about generosity will be seen in how you use money and time



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Links this relates to Spiritual Health

- Eccl 5:10 “Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.”
- Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”



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- 1 Tim 6:10 “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”
- - Heb. 13:5-6 “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”



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1. Foundation Truth

- impossible without encountering Christ
- Springs from God's character – evidenced and commanded in Christ
- Rom 5:8 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”



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- Salvation through Jesus
 - God did for you
- New Life in Christ
 - God granted you from himself
- Fruit of the Spirit
 - God is growing in you by His work
- Eternity in Heaven
 - God is preparing for you there



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2. Position and Posture 2 Cor. 9:6-12

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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.”



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- “As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor their righteousness endures forever.” Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of you righteousness. 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.”



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a) What You Believe Matters

- this affects your walk with God vs.6
- motives are really important
 - heart must be involved
 - not reluctantly, under compulsion
- stems from ownership issues or bad theology



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- don't miss the truth
 - * God Loves a cheerful giver
 - * Able to bless you abundantly
 - * Able to provide all you need in every situation
- when we really believe this – choose differently



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Free Study – Matt. 6:19-34

Three Imperatives From Jesus

1. Lay Up Treasures in Heaven vs.20
 - Luke 12:32-33
2. Deal With Anxiety vs.25,31,34
 - trust issues dealt with
3. Seek First the Kingdom of God vs.33
 - priorities matter

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b) Ownership vs. Stewardship 10-11

- vs. 10 – He who..will increase...enlarge
- comes from God – Belongs to God
- freedom found when we understand we are not owners, simply managers of what is chosen to entrust to us.



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c) Trust Issue

- do I trust God enough to live this way?
- Phil 4:19 “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”
- Rom. 8:32 “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”



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d) Attitude Shifts

- selfish – selfless
- consumer – servant
- coveting – gratitude
- greed – giving

* either we serve money and use people
or we serve people and use money – it's
a choice!



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3. Living Generously Does.....

- a) Free You to Participate and Experience
 - felt needs of others will be met
- b) God is praised and known by others
 - obedience is a witness
 - generosity opens door to gospel truth
- c) Strengthens family bonds
 - thanking God for and praying for you



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d) Brings Joy

- Prov. 22:9 “The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.”
- Acts 20:35 “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”



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So What

1. Examination Time

- what do I believe about this?
- do I know what Scripture says?
- am I willing to change?

2. Realignment Time

- show me Holy Spirit where I have taken back ownership – believed a lie



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3. Intentional Change

- obedience to truth will bring change
- get accountable to someone
- mark ahead to evaluate progress
- begin to adjust the spending of your resources – time and money – to reflect your trust in God and gratitude for His generosity towards you