

## **Generosity**

Before we can fully embrace and then begin to live out the dream God has for our lives we must recognize the generosity of God toward us.

Generosity to be Generous a: characterized by a noble or forbearing spirit : **MAGNANIMOUS** , **KINDLY b**: liberal in giving : **OPENHANDED c**: marked by abundance or ample proportions

John 3:16 (NLT) “For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

- “There cannot be a surer rule, nor a stronger exhortation to the observance of it, than when we are taught that all the endowments which we possess are divine deposits entrusted to us for the very purpose of being distributed for the good of our neighbor.” — **John Calvin** (1509-64), French theologian and reformer

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NLT) By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

<sup>4</sup> And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.

**Hebrews 13:20-22 (NLT)** Now may the God of peace—who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood—<sup>21</sup> may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen.

Acts 1:8 (New Living Translation) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**John 14:12-13 (New Living Translation)** “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. <sup>13</sup> You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)** All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup> God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

- “No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.” — **Calvin Coolidge** (1872-1933), 30th U.S. president

Luke 12:13-21 (NLT) Then someone called from the crowd, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father’s estate with me.” <sup>14</sup> Jesus replied, “Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?”

<sup>15</sup> Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. <sup>17</sup> He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ <sup>18</sup> Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods.

<sup>19</sup> And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!”

<sup>20</sup> “But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’

<sup>21</sup> “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”

- “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” — **Jim Elliot** (1927-56), missionary and martyr to the Acua Indians

At 12:55pm the mayday call crackled through the speakers at the Flight Service Station on Alaska’s Kenai Peninsula. The desperate pilot of a Piper A22, a small single-engine plane, was reporting they had run out of fuel and was preparing to ditch the aircraft in the waters of Cook Inlet. On board were four people, two adults and two young girls, ages 11 and 12. They had departed two hours earlier from Port Alsworth, a small community on the south shore of Lake Clark, bound for Soldotna, a distance of about 150 miles. Under normal conditions it would have been a routine flight; however, the combination of fierce headwinds and a failure to top off the fuel tank had created a lethal situation.

Upon hearing the plane’s tail number, the air traffic controller realized that his own daughter was one of the young passengers aboard the plane. In desperation himself, he did everything possible to assist the pilot; but suddenly the transmission was cut off. The plane had crashed into the icy waters.

Four helicopters operating nearby began searching the area within minutes of the emergency call; but they found no evidence of the plane, and no survivors. The aircraft had been traveling without water survival gear, leaving its four passengers with even less of a chance to make it through the ordeal. Fiercely

cold Cook Inlet, with its unpredictable glacial currents, is considered among the most dangerous waters in the world. It can claim a life in minutes, and that day it claimed four.

For reasons we will never know, the pilot of that doomed aircraft chose not to use the resources that were at his disposal. He did not have enough fuel. He did not have the proper survival equipment.

Perhaps he had not taken the time to get the day's weather report. Whatever the case, he did not use the resources that were available, and in this instance the consequences were fatal.

The stewardship of resources is a serious business; and God's will is that we give it serious attention. This demands that we have the right perspective on our resources, and that is possible only if we have the right focus on our source. Everything that we have-every earthly resource-comes from a heavenly source. God is our faithful supplier, and His plan is that we be His faithful stewards.

John 9:4 (NKJV) I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work.

We must live with a certain sense of urgency for the purposes of God

Before we can fully embrace and then begin to live out the dream God has for our lives we must recognize the generosity of God toward us. And we must learn to live as stewards of the Generosity.

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