



## Key References:

“When gratefulness is fresh. When gratefulness is current and it’s alive and well in our hearts. It becomes a lifestyle. Yesterday’s gratefulness isn’t going to help with today’s generosity. You need gratefulness for today. That’s why we should start our day with giving thanks to God.”

– Paul MacMunn

### **2 Corinthians 9:6–11 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;  
their righteousness endures forever.”

<sup>10</sup> 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 your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> 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.

### **Matthew 23:23 (NLT)**

<sup>23</sup> “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.

## **1 – GENEROSITY STARTS WITH GRATITUDE**

Would you describe yourself as a grateful person? What is the amount of gratefulness in someone’s life based on?

Who is the most generous person you have ever know? Why were they like that?

Read the quote from Paul. **How does gratefulness start and continue to feed generosity in someone’s life? Can someone be generous without being grateful first?**

Paul said gratefulness needs to be felt daily. **What can you set your focus on every day to bring gratefulness to the surface? In what way is being grateful a spiritual discipline?**

## **2 – THE PURPOSE OF GENEROSITY**

Paul said the purpose of God’s blessings is for the extension of His kingdom. **What did he mean?**

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. **What is the purpose of God’s blessing and then giving found in verse 11? What else speaks to you from this scripture?**

## **3 – GIVING BACK TO GOD**

Read Matthew 23:23. **What was Jesus’ view on tithing? What is the purpose of tithing? What do you find difficult about giving to the church? What does giving back to God do in our hearts?**

## **4 – PREPARING TO BE GENEROUS**

Paul shared how he and Katie set aside money to be generous with. **How were you encouraged by this? What other ways can you prepare in-advance to make being generous easier?**

## **5 – GIVING CHEERFULLY**

Paul linked being prepared to give to increased joy in giving. **Why should giving and joy go hand in hand?**

**Why does God love a cheerful giver?**

## Additional References:

### **Romans 8:37 (ESV)**

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

*“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made know through Jesus Christ.” – Blaise Pascal*

### **1 Peter 2:24–25 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

<sup>25</sup>For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

### **Romans 10:9–10 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup>because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

### **Romans 5:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

*“Gratitude is more than a pleasant feeling, it is also motivating. Gratitude serves as a key link between receiving and giving. It moves recipients to share and increase the very good that they’ve received” –*

**Anonymous**

### **Philippians 4:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

### **Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup>For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

### **Proverbs 18:16 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup>A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.