

**Fact #1** – God **blesses** generous people!

- *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.'***

Acts 20:35 – Jesus

- **Give, and it will be given to you.** *A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you".*

Luke 6:38 - Jesus

- **A generous man will himself be blessed,** *for he shares his food with the poor.*

Proverbs 22:9 - Solomon

- *He who is **kind to the poor** lends to the LORD, and He will **reward him** for what he has done.*

Proverbs 19:17 – Solomon

- *When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, **so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.***

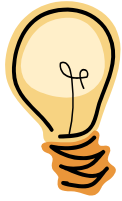
Deuteronomy 24:19 - Moses

- **Honor the LORD** with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be **filled to overflowing**, and your vats will **brim over with new wine.**

Proverbs 3:9-10 - Solomon

- *One man **gives freely**, yet **gains even more**; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will **prosper**; he who refreshes others **will himself be refreshed.***

Proverbs 11:24-25 – Solomon



*Bright Idea*

Generous living produces emotional **HAPPINESS**,  
spiritual **HOLINESS**, and material **PROSPERITY**.

**Fact #2** – God provides **clear criteria** for becoming a  
generous person!

1. Genuine generosity gives the **FIRST** and the **BEST** to God. Proverbs 3:9-10
2. Genuine generosity is regular and **SYSTEMATIC**. 1 Corinthians 16:2
3. Genuine generosity is **PROPORTIONAL** to our income. 1 Corinthians 16:2
4. Genuine generosity is **SACRIFICIAL**.

*<sup>1</sup> And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup> Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup> they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.*

2 Corinthians 8:1-4

5. Genuine generosity is **THOUGHTFUL**, voluntary, and **WORSHIPFUL**.

*<sup>5</sup> So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, **not** as one grudgingly given. <sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever **sows sparingly** will also **reap sparingly**, and whoever **sows generously** will also **reap generously**. <sup>7</sup> Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, **not reluctantly** or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver**.*

2 Corinthians 9:5-7

**Fact #3** – is Breakthrough Concept #3...

**Breakthrough Concept #3**

God prospers me not to raise my standard of living,  
but to raise my standard of giving.\*

*<sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, 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: “He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his 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 made rich in **every way** so that you can be generous on **every occasion**, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

2 Corinthians 9:8-11

\*Randy Alcorn – The Treasure Principle

**Fact #4** – The key to becoming habitually generous and experience habitual happiness is **FAITH!**

- Faith says – Refuse to chase the wind. Ecclesiastes 2:11
- Faith says – Enjoy God’s provision. 1 Timothy 6:19
- Faith says – God rewards those who step out and **TRUST** Him. Hebrews 11:6

**Action:** “The Parable of the Pump”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Do you feel happy when you have been kind and generous with your time, talent, and treasure?
2. What specific steps would you need to take to fulfill God’s criteria and be generous in God’s eyes?
3. Discuss Breakthrough Concept #3. Do you agree or disagree with it?
4. Where do faith and generosity intersect? What step of faith is God asking you to take?