

DEVOTIONAL

Hollywood Prayer Network

GENEROSITY

One dictionary defines GENEROSITY as “the quality of being kind and generous.” That means that being generous can mean giving money and food to the poor and needy, but it can also mean being kind and generous of spirit. This week we’ll look into different ways of being generous and the rewards that God gives us when we have generous hearts. Make this week’s goal to become Christ-like with generosity!

DAY 1

GENEROSITY LEADS TO THANKSGIVING

"THE GOSPEL ALONE LIBERATES YOU TO
LIVE A LIFE OF SCANDALOUS GENEROSITY,
UNRESTRAINED SACRIFICE, UNCOMMON
VALOR, AND UNBOUNDED COURAGE."

-TULLIAN TCHIVIDJIAN

New International Version

2 Corinthians 9:11

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.

DAY 1

PRAY: Father in heaven, I want to start my week with an attitude of generosity so that I will be enriched in every way and through my generosity, experience thanksgiving to God. Your ways are not our ways. They are so much more amazing and beautiful. So, please fill me with a generous spirit and thanksgiving for all that You have given me. I want to be known for my generosity so that I am pleasing You and blessing others at the same time. I'm excited for this week as I focus on generosity. Thank You Father. Amen.

REFLECT: What would it look like to be generous on EVERY occasion? And how awe-some is it to think that our generosity will bring both others and ourselves a heart of thanksgiving. It's a Win/Win to be generous with our money, our stuff, our resources, our knowledge, connections, prayers, time, and our hearts! Can you imagine that the Lord will make us rich in EVERY way, and our generosity will even increase? It's hard to fully embrace how our life would change but it's worth the effort to try to be generous on every occasion!

DAY 1

PACT: This week's goal is to be scandalously generous on every occasion and with everything we have. That means asking the Lord to use you wherever you'll be, whomever you'll be with, and with whatever you'll be doing. Why not write in your calendar every day: BE GENEROUS! And then remember that's for every conversation, every meeting, every email, and every encounter with a friend, family member, neighbor or stranger. Be generous with everyone you talk to and everything you do. Start right now on this adventure of GENEROSITY!

DAY 2

GIVE OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS

"THE MOST OBVIOUS LESSON IN CHRIST'S
TEACHING IS THAT THERE IS NO
HAPPINESS IN HAVING OR GETTING
ANYTHING, BUT ONLY IN GIVING."

-HENRY DRUMMOND

New International Version

Luke 6:38

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.

DAY 2

PRAY: Lord, You are so amazing. When You tell us to do something, You always make sure it will benefit us. Thank You for Your generosity. Please help me to be a generous person – but not just because I will prosper. Help me to always remember that with the measure I use, it will be measured to me. I want to give generously without wanting anything back in return. I thank You for giving me a generous heart that runs over freely! Amen.

REFLECT: Think about how God created a world with consequences and rewards. If we follow Him, we experience more fruit, more abundance, and more peace and joy, and blessings will be poured into our lap. If we choose to live life our way, we miss out on all the rewards God offers us. For with the measure we use, it will be measured to us. What better motivator to give, than to know that what you give will be given back to you and poured into your lap.

DAY 2

ACT: Do you consider yourself a generous person? How can you go above and beyond? How can you give more or refresh more people? Focus in on a person who is on your mind right now and choose to do some act of generosity for them. Could they need a note of encouragement, a call from you to pray with them, or a gift of money? Take that extra step right now to pour into another person. And then you will probably experience a blessing poured into your lap as well. Don't do it for that reason, but be ready for a subtle, or even an obvious, reward from the Lord for your selfless and generous acts toward other people.

DAY 3

GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE TO OTHERS

"WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET;
WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE."

-WINSTON CHURCHILL

New International Version

Proverbs 22:9

The generous will themselves be blessed,
for they share their food with the poor.

1 John 3:17

If anyone has material possessions and
sees his brother in need but has no pity on
him, how can the love of God be in him?

DAY 3

PRAY: Dear Jesus, would You soften my heart toward the poor and the needy? Would You show me the widows and orphans in my life whom I haven't noticed or haven't gone out of my way to help and to pray for? Show me how I can share my food with others and be more generous even to my own family. I know Your love is in me, so help me to be a more generous person and have "the love of God" in my heart and with my wallet every day. Amen.

REFLECT: We often think of the word pity as a negative word. To pity someone sounds demeaning. Yet the definition of pity is: "the feeling of sorrow and compassion caused by the suffering and misfortunes of others." We need to show more godly pity on all the needy people around us – both our familial brothers and sisters, our "neighbors" and our Christian brothers and sisters – no matter who they are. We want to show the love of God to all people and that starts with a generous heart. We are commanded to share our food and our material possessions. The Christians in the first century church were great at this! Do you do that on a regular basis?

DAY 3

ACT: Choose one person you're worried about or you feel pity for who would be shocked that you reached out to them. Be scandalously generous to that person today with a surprising gift, or offer them unexpected resources, time, love, and your prayers. Choose to do a Christ-like random act of kindness toward someone in need today by sharing a meal or anything that you have, and they need. You'll see how rich you really are and how easy it is to generously bless others. And as you share what you have with others, you will yourself be blessed!

DAY 4

WE BENEFIT FROM OUR GENEROSITY

"I DO NOT BELIEVE ONE CAN SETTLE HOW
MUCH WE OUGHT TO GIVE. I AM AFRAID
THE ONLY SAFE RULE IS TO GIVE MORE
THAN WE CAN SPARE."

-C.S. LEWIS

New International Version

2 Corinthians 9:6

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly
will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows
generously will also reap generously.

DAY 4

PRAY: Lord in Heaven, please never let me be known for sowing sparingly. I don't want to be "fiscally conservative" or especially "cheap." Show me how to sow generously in order to help others, and also reap generously in order to have even more to give away. Please push me out of my comfort zone! It's exciting to know that You will help me to creatively give to others as You have given to me. I look forward in anticipation for what You're going to do in me and through me. Amen.

REFLECT: The farmer's analogy of sowing and reaping is so clear when it comes to generosity. When a farmer works hard to sow his field, he receives a rich and large harvest as his reward. When we sow into others through our generosity, we can reap a rich harvest of fruit as well. But the opposite is also true. We can't be lazy or sow sparingly or we will reap sparingly, and for farmers that means not having enough food to get through that season. Have you ever experienced not having enough of God's peace, strength, joy, or fruits of the Spirit? If so, maybe that's because you have been sowing into others sparingly...

DAY 4

ACT: Make a list of 5 people or families you can sow into. It could be family, neighbors, co-workers, parents of your children's friends, through a giving ministry, or the teller at your bank.... Over the next month choose to sow into those five people. Pray about each one's particular need and then be creative and generous as you act out this commitment. See that by sowing generously you reap generously. Start now and have fun!

DAY 5

GIVE WHEN YOU ARE IN NEED

"GIVING FREES US FROM THE FAMILIAR
TERRITORY OF OUR OWN NEEDS BY OPENING
OUR MIND TO THE UNEXPLAINED WORLDS
OCCUPIED BY THE NEEDS OF OTHERS."

-BARBARA BUSH

New International Version

2 Corinthians 8:2

In the midst of a very severe trial, their
overflowing joy and their extreme poverty
welled up in rich generosity.

DAY 5

PRAY: Dear Jesus, I need Your help when I am in the midst of a very severe trial, or when I'm lonely or depressed. Help me choose to be overflowing with joy and then watch my extreme poverty of emotions or finances well up into rich generosity. You tell us that when we are weak, through You, we are strong. So, when I'm struggling financially or emotionally, I can choose to be generous and selfless and You will bless me. Even if it feels hard to do, I know that with You all things are possible! Amen.

REFLECT: This verse is so humbling. As we read about the Christians in the early days, they were selling property and giving it to one another, opening their homes for people to stay in, and giving away money and food to anyone in need. And today, we are taught to make sure we save up for ourselves: own a home and have a pension, and a college savings account, along with health and life insurance. If we truly believe that even in the midst of extreme poverty we can overflow with joy and well up in rich generosity, I think we would be more generous with what we have, without the fear of not having enough. God is faithful to supply our daily bread. It's up to us to be richly generous and overflow with joy in the process.

DAY 5

ACT: Ask God right now for a miracle in your life. Ask Him to show you how He can create joy in you when you don't feel it, or make you generous when you have very little. Ask Him to change your heart, to take away your fear, and compel you to give to others from all that you have or don't have! And be sure to ask with an expectant heart. This verse is true, so live it out without doubt so you will enjoy the rewards His promises bless those who obey. Never be afraid again for severe trials! He's ready to give you miracles in your life, so just ask Him.

DAY 6

GIVE WITHOUT A GRUDGING HEART

"IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANY CHARITY IN
YOUR HEART, YOU HAVE THE WORST
KIND OF HEART TROUBLE."

-BOB HOPE

New International Version

Deuteronomy 15:10

Give generously to them and do so without
a grudging heart; then because of this the
Lord your God will bless you in all your work
and in everything you put your hand to.

DAY 6

PRAY: Lord, I'm so sorry that I do things sometimes with a grudging heart. Would You change my heart and my mind so that I am a generous person in everything I put my hand to? And help me to be generous to people I don't agree with or don't like – even to the people in the government, and Hollywood, with whom I don't agree, and who are creating policy or entertainment that I don't like. Let my prayers be generous, without a grudging heart. Let generosity pour out of my heart so that I don't judge anyone, but rather give everyone the benefit of the doubt. Take away my grudging heart and bless me in everything I do because I am blessing others. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

REFLECT: Giving generously doesn't always mean just with money or resources. We can have a grudging heart and not give people love, grace, mercy, or the benefit of the doubt. Are you judging your political leaders or your culture shapers with a grudging heart and not offering them your generous prayers or kind words? Giving generously to our culture's leaders can open you up to amazing possibilities and opportunities and allow God to bless you in all your work and everything you put your hand to. How can you generously give of your heart?

DAY 6

ACT: Think about the cultural leaders in our country whom you have judged. Have you ever written an angry letter to someone in Hollywood? Have you talked against them to others, or cursed them in your heart? Why don't you give love generously to a cultural leader in our country and write them a letter of support, letting them know you are praying for them. We want to bless those who are impacting our culture and be generous to them with our words and our love! If you write to someone in Hollywood and need help getting it delivered, email us at info@hpnemail.org and we'll make sure they get it.

DAY 7

BE GENEROUS IN DOING GOOD

"IN ALL OF MY YEARS OF SERVICE TO MY LORD, I HAVE DISCOVERED A TRUTH THAT HAS NEVER FAILED AND HAS NEVER BEEN COMPROMISED. THAT TRUTH IS THAT IT IS BEYOND THE REALM OF POSSIBILITIES THAT ONE HAS THE ABILITY TO OUT-GIVE GOD. EVEN IF I GIVE THE WHOLE OF MY WORTH TO HIM, HE WILL FIND A WAY TO GIVE BACK TO ME MUCH MORE THAN I GAVE."

-CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON

New International Version

1 Timothy 6:18 & Acts 20:35b

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."..."remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

DAY 7

PRAY: Dear Father, You have commanded us to be good, to be rich in good deeds and be generous and willing to share. Would You check my heart so that I truly am a generous person? Help me to share everything, not just my extras or out of my abundance. Help me to be a sacrificial giver, because I know I can't out-give You. Thank You for stretching me outside of my comfort zone so that I can follow Your command to do good, the way You want me to do it! I'm excited about what You will reveal to me about Your way of being generous. Amen.

REFLECT: You've probably heard the saying, "You can't out give God!" But have you ever thought of living that way? In our Christian culture, we are supposed to give 10% of what we earn. How about you give 20%, 40% or more...What would you need to change or adjust in your life to be RICH in good deeds and to be GENEROUS and willing to share? If you take this thought to the nth degree, it could be life-changing for you and the world around you.

DAY 7

ACT: Choose today to be your DAY OF GENEROSITY. Commit to go crazy with your generosity, in your service to others, your words, your financial giving, and your prayers. And even be generous to God by giving more time and more of yourself to Him. Do more than seems rational or reasonable and trust Him to reward you for your efforts. Don't let fear or practicality stop you from going crazy with generosity. If people don't notice that you're different then you haven't done or said enough. What fun it will be to have people thinking you've lost your mind with your selfless acts of divine generosity. GO FOR IT!