

GENEROUS LIVING

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

KEYS TO CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY

I. REMEMBER GOD IS THE _____

Job 41:11b . . . Everything under heaven belongs to me.

Psalms 24:1 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

Deuteronomy 8:18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

THE GREAT REMINDER OF GOD'S OWNERSHIP IS THE TITHE

"Nearly every study indicates that American Christians give an average of between 2 and 3 percent of their income." (The Treasure Principle, Randy Alcorn, 63)

Malachi 3:10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it

II. BELIEVE GOD IS OUR _____

Isaiah 46:4 Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you

Matthew 6:33 **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well**

III. PRACTICE _____

“The more we have the less we can give.” Mother Teresa

Ecclesiastes 5:10 Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.

“Money never made a man happy yet, nor will it. The more a man has, the more he wants. Instead of filling a vacuum, it makes one.” --Benjamin Franklin

Luke 12:15 Then he said to them, **“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”**

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

IV. SOW WITH _____ IN MIND

Matthew 6:21 **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also**

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 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. ⁹ As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.

Acts 20:35b . . . remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: **‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’** ?”

Everyone’s journey with generosity is unique but I want to give you a next step.

MY GENEROSITY COVENANT:

1. I affirm God’s full ownership of me and everything entrusted to me.
2. I will set aside the first fruits—at least 10 percent—of every wage and gift I receive as holy and belonging in a special way to the Lord.
3. Out of the remaining treasures God entrusts to me I will make other sacrificial freewill gifts to God’s kingdom as His Spirit leads.
4. I will wrestle with the question “what is enough?” and strive to be a content person in a materialistic culture.
5. I will trust God as my provider.
6. I will sow generously into God’s kingdom with my time, talents and treasure; expecting a great harvest/reward whether in this life or in heaven.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____