

THE JOURNEY TO GENEROSITY

A DISCIPLESHIP COMPANION TO THE STEWARDSHIP WELL DONE JOURNEY.

A healed and whole relationship with God cultivates a generous spirit.

You may have heard the old phrase, “you can’t outgive God.” The meaning of this saying is much deeper and more profound than you might first notice on the surface. One of the first ways most people begin to know and understand God is through His love and generosity. Consider the generosity of God in this most-well-known passage of Scripture:

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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17)

For God so loved, that he gave. And what did God give us? His Son. You truly can’t outgive God.

When we come to know God’s great love and generosity, accept His gift and give our lives to follow Him, we begin a journey of transformation. Everything about our lives aligns with that of Christ as we follow Him and live according to His ways.

- 1. Discuss how your life was impacted when you first came to know and understand God’s love and generosity through the gift of His Son, Jesus.**
- 2. Discuss one aspect of your life that has significantly changed since following Jesus.**



One crucial, yet often overlooked facet of our transformation, is the emergence of selflessness. God’s generosity so impacts our lives that we begin to yearn to give to others. Why does this happen? Simply put, our relationship with God begins to heal and grow – flourish and enliven. The deeper our relationship with God becomes, the more generosity will reign in our hearts. The Apostle Paul explained this to the church in Corinth in this way:

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. As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.” 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. 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. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. (2 Corinthians 9:8-12)



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Notice how our lives begin to mirror that of God as He fills us and sends His Holy Spirit to occupy our hearts.

- 1. We abound in good works because we have what we need due to the blessings of God. We receive blessings from God and are compelled to bless others. Has this been true of your life? How have the blessings God has given you filled you with the desire to be selfless in blessing others?*
- 2. We scatter our gifts to the poor. To “scatter” gifts is a powerful word picture of generosity. How does scattering gifts to the poor reflect a more healed relationship with God?*
- 3. Paul says we will be enriched in every way so we can be generous on every occasion. What does that look like for you in your life? How do you seek to be more and more generous on every occasion?*
- 4. Generosity results in thanksgiving to God. Have you ever considered that giving, although it satisfies us deeply, actually results in God receiving praise? How does this shift your thoughts about giving?*

These are all signs of healthy and whole relationship with God.

Let's connect generosity to three steps of the Stewardship Well Done Journey.

- **Step One:** Priorities. How do our priorities regarding the resources entrusted to our care shift as our relationship with God heals and deepens?
- **Step Two:** Budget. How does a healed and whole relationship with God order the way we approach budgeting? Is there a line item for generosity in your budget?
- **Step Nine:** Legacy. What role does generosity play in your desire to leave a godly legacy?

Remember the words of 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)

You truly cannot outgive God.

Journal a Prayer

Close this lesson by spending some quiet time with God and open up your heart to Him. What have you learned or re-learned about God through this lesson? What requests do you have of the Lord regarding generosity and your own life? What is the Lord saying to you about generosity and selflessness?



The Stewardship Well Done Journey

Visit <https://fmffinancial.org/stewardship> for the nine steps of the Stewardship Well Done Journey. As you consider the nine steps, see them through the lens of this discussion. At FMF Financial Services we'd love to begin the conversation with you about your own Stewardship Well Done Journey.

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