**Examples of Generosity in the Bible and How to Follow Them**

Chris Willard – generosity (sermon giving 7.21.2019 at The Compass Church)

Ask a generous person, “Why are you so generous?” The more I give away, the more He gives to me to give.

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 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. 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. **2 Cor 9: 6-11**

**Contagious generosity**

1. It all begins with God
   1. If you have it, it is because God has given it to you.
   2. God is the owner, we are His stewards
   3. Your stuff is not your stuff
   4. The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalms 24.1
   5. To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. Deut. 10.14
   6. Randy Alcorn – He is still the owner of all things, “what I possess, God owns”
   7. Generosity is what He wants for us and from us.
2. Generosity lends to blessing – not always financial.
   1. The World watches the way we handle money/blessings
   2. When we get tripped into prosperity Gospel
   3. God probably gives us gifts after every gift we give, it just may not be financial
3. Why does God bless us? So we can be a blessing to others. You will be enriched in every way so you can bless others Acts 4.32-35 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, **but they shared everything they had**. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales. and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.
4. Randy Alcorn – God gives us more money than we need so we can give to others
5. Generosity and stewardship takes practice
   1. To grow in Christ you have to learn to be generous
   2. Do you have a plan to give back to the Lord?
   3. 2 Cor 9.7 each of you should give what you decided to give . . .
6. What is the next step? Understanding the stages in generosity
   1. Initial giver
   2. Intentional giver
   3. Proportional giver
   4. Giving 10% of your tithe
   5. Fearless giver

Where do you fall in this list? Pray the Lord will help you be a more generous giver

1. Your generosity inspires others to give thanks to God.

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them **complained against the Hebraic Jews** because **their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food**. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. **So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.** Acts 6.1-7