

# Message Notes

## Four T's of Generous Living

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the English Standard Version)

Introduction – “The power of a the redeemed heart...”

## Generosity: A Case Study

### The Background

Acts 11:27-30

Galatians

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

### The Appeal

2 Corinthians 8:7-9

1. Excel in the spiritual discipline of giving (vr. 7)

2. Not out of compulsion, but eagerly (vr. 8a)

3. To test the sincerity of your love (vr. 8b)

4. Consider Jesus' gift (vr. 9)

### Application – “The Four T's of Generosity”

Time

Philippians 2:5-7

Talent

Romans 12:6-8

Treasure

Matthew 6:19-21

Ticker

1 Corinthians 13

2 Corinthians 8:7-12

<sup>7</sup>But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

<sup>8</sup>I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Philippians 2:5-7

<sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Romans 12:6-8

<sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup>If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Matthew 6:19-21

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

1 Corinthians 12:29-13:13

<sup>29</sup>And now I will show you the most excellent way. <sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

<sup>3</sup>If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

<sup>8</sup>Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. <sup>12</sup>Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

<sup>13</sup>And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**THE  
REDEEMED  
LIFE  
SET FREE**

**THE  
REDEEMED  
LIFE  
SET FREE**

**GENEROUS  
LIVING**

# *Six Building Blocks to Generous Living*

Investing

Let it GO!

Manager

Happiness

Where's  
Home?

A Right View of

GOD



# Generous Living

A Biblical Case Study

# Generous Living

*The background*

**Acts 11:27-30**

<sup>27</sup>During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup>One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) <sup>29</sup>The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. <sup>30</sup>This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

# Generous Living

*The background*

**Galatians 2:9-10**

<sup>9</sup>James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews. <sup>10</sup>All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

# Generous Living

*The background*

**1 Corinthians 16:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. <sup>2</sup>On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. <sup>3</sup>Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.



# Generous Living

## 2 Corinthians 8:7-12

<sup>7</sup>But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

<sup>8</sup>I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

# Generous Living

## *1. Excel in the Spiritual Discipline of Giving!*

### **2 Corinthians 8:7-12**

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# Generous Living

*2. Not out of compulsion, but eagerly*

**2 Corinthians 8:8a**

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EC  
NTD

# 1 CORINTHIANS

BAKER  
EXEGETICAL  
COMMENTARY  
ON THE NEW  
TESTAMENT



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DAVID E. GARLAND



EC  
NTD

# 1 CORINTHIAN

DAVE  
EXEGETICAL  
COMMENTARY  
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DAVID E. GARLAND

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

## THE NEW AMERICAN COMMENTARY



An Exegetical and Theological  
Exposition of Holy Scripture

2 CORINTHIANS  
VOL. 29

David E. Garland



“Paul is moving cautiously and does not want to leave the impression that he is giving them orders (1 Cor 7:6, 25; contrast 1 Cor 16:1–2). He is sensitive to any charges that he domineers over their faith (1:24).



He also does not want them giving because of some external compulsion. In his letter to Philemon, he deals with his fellow Christian in the same way and does not command him what to do (Phlm 8, 14). Paul takes the freedom of Christians seriously. They may choose to take part or not. Their participation is purely voluntary (2 Cor 9:5, 7), and voluntary collections depend on the goodwill of the donors. Consequently, Paul does not command but instead invites, encourages, and lays out divine principles gleaned from



Scripture. He hopes that they will respond out of hearts that have been freed by the gospel and fired by God's grace. This does not mean that he sits by passively in wishful anticipation that they will choose the right thing. He is their spiritual director, and he spends two chapters outlining the reasons why they should participate. He does not want them giving for the wrong reasons. On the other hand, we should not ignore today that the discipline of giving, even for the wrong reasons, may eventually lead to a person giving for the right reasons. But Paul has the highest expectations that the Corinthians will give for the right reasons, and he offers a theological rationale for why they should give."



~ David E. Garland, *2 Corinthians*, page 375.



# TITHING



# Generous Living

## 3. *To “test” the sincerity of your love*

### 2 Corinthians 8:8b

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“It is possible that he intends for them to show their love for Christ and Christ’s love for them by showing their love for their fellow Christians. Paul knows that words expressing love come cheaply and can be faked; genuine love will show up in the checkbook.”

~ David E. Garland, *2 Corinthians*, page 375.

# Generous Living

## 3. *To “test” the sincerity of your love*

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# Generous Living

## *4. Consider Jesus' gift* **2 Corinthians 8:9**

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“Christ was made poor that we through His poverty might be rich. He took the form of a servant that we might regain liberty. He descended that we might be exalted. He was tempted that we might overcome. He was despised that He might fill us with glory. He died that we might be saved. He ascended, to draw to Himself those lying prostrate on the ground through sin’s stumblingblock.”

~ St. Gregory of Nazianus, Archbishop of Constantinople,  
c. 329-390 AD

## 2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin  
to be sin for us,  
so that in him  
we might become the righteousness of God.



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1. True giving requires giving of oneself, not just giving money. The gospel is not about what we can get from God but what God has given to us so that we can give of ourselves to others.

“From the examples of the Macedonians and Christ the Corinthians can learn the following:



2. One can give out of extreme poverty, and one can give out of measureless riches. Those who are disinclined to be generous when they are poor are not likely to become suddenly generous when they are rich.

“From the examples of the Macedonians and Christ the Corinthians can learn the following:



3. Giving is related to the grace of God experienced in Christ. The recipients are not required to have done anything to merit the gift except to be in need. The givers are made generous because of God's grace working on them, in them, and through them.”

~ David E. Garland, *2 Corinthians*, page 375.

# Generous Living

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Generous Living:

Sowing Seeds that  
Satisfy &  
Bless others

# *APPLICATION:* *Four Areas of Generosity*



# *Four Areas of Generosity*

Generous Living:

Sowing Seeds that  
Satisfy &  
Bless others



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# Time



## Philippians 2:5-7

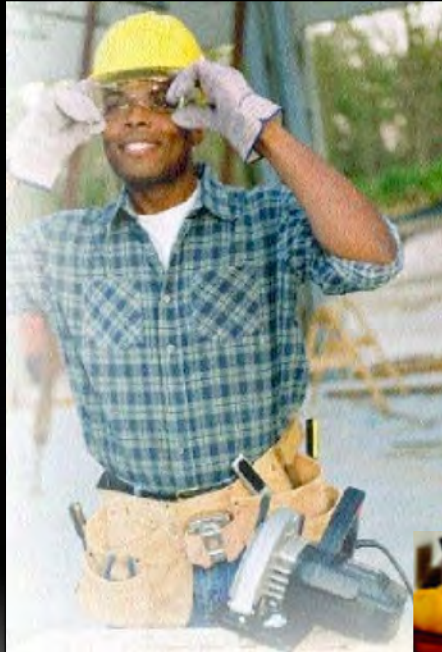
<sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

# *Four Areas of Generosity*

## Talent

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# Talent

## Romans 12:6-8

<sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup>If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.



# *Four Areas of Generosity*

## Treasure

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# Treasure



## Matthew 6:19-21

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

## Giving by Class:

The two groups in the United States that give the highest percentages of their income are the poor (those making less than \$20,000 per year) and the rich (those making more than \$100,000 per year). Middle-class Americans (those making between \$40,000 and \$100,000 per year) are the smallest percentage givers.



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### Few Support the Church:

Only one-third to one-half of U.S. church members financially support their churches.



## Pets:

In 2007, it is estimated that Americans will spend over \$40 billion on their pets.

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### Giving Not a Priority:

Christians worldwide had personal income totaling more than \$16 trillion in 2007 but gave only 2 percent, or \$370 billion, to Christian causes.

## Tithing:

9% of American "born-again" adults tithed in 2004.

Then and Now: Giving by North American churchgoers was higher during the Great Depression (3.3 percent of per capita income in 1933) than it was after a half-century of unprecedented prosperity (2.5 percent in 2004).

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### Sunday Offerings:

The average amount of money given by a full or confirmed member of a U.S. Christian church in 2004 was \$691.93. This comes to an average of \$13.31 per week.

## Enormous Prosperity:

At the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the United States was home to 276 billionaires, over 2,500 households with a net worth exceeding \$100 million, 350,000 individuals with a net worth of \$10 million, and 5 million millionaires.

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Americans own approximately 40 percent of the world's wealth but comprise only 2.5 percent of the world's population.

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### High Wealth, Small Population:

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### Incomes Up, Giving Down:

Incomes have gone up nine to 10 times in the last 20 years while giving has gone down about 50 percent.





# *Four Areas of Generosity*

## Ticker

Generous Living:

Sowing Seeds that  
Satisfy &  
Bless others



# Ticker



## 1 Corinthians 12:29-13:13

<sup>29</sup>And now I will show you the most excellent way. <sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.



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