



Courageously Generous
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Faith expressed through courageous generosity is a secret to a life, and a church that is poised for God's provision and blessing. The reality of a blessed life is not about getting more, it is about giving more of ourselves to our King and Lord Jesus Christ and his purposes for us.

Why is it so important to cultivate a life of courageous generosity?

1. Generosity Makes Me More Like Jesus

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:16-18 (NIV)

Purity is best demonstrated by generosity. Luke 11:41 (TLB)

2. Generosity Demonstrates My Faith

....the generosity that comes from your faith ... Philemon 1:6 (NLT)

Bring to the storehouse a full tenth of what you earn so there will be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord "I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour out all the blessings you need... Malachi 3:10 (NCV)

One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but come to poverty. Proverbs 11:24 (NIV)

3. Generosity Brings God's Blessing

One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. Proverbs 11:24-25 (NIV)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.... 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. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV)

Generous people will be blessed Proverbs 22:9 (NIV)

4. Generosity Expands my Influence

The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller. Proverbs 11:24 (MSG)

5. Generosity is an Expression of Worship

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 1 Timothy 6:18 (NIV)

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We live with open hands. Jesus courageously gave up everything so that we can have everlasting life. Therefore, we surrender our time, talent, and treasure to God with joy and gratitude. By living open-handed, we are courageously generous, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your motivation to serve and give? How does your service lead to an expression of thanks to God?
2. How does your giving reflect God's generosity toward you?
3. What are some specific ways you can be more generous with your time this week?