

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GENEROSITY

Sunday March 30, 2025 — OUR GENEROUS GOD series Msg #2 — Pastor Andrew Coleman

REVIEW from last week:

God's love means that God generously gives Himself to others.

1 JOHN 4:8

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

'Love' (*agape* as opposed to *eros* or *philia*) = 'selfless love'

God's love is an 'others-oriented love'.

God's love is a 'self-giving love'.

God's love gives himself to bless others.

God is OVER all things, He OWNS all things, and He GENEROUSLY GIVES all things.

God's GENEROSITY is seen in...

- Eternity past (His Trinity), ---> HIMSELF!
- the Present (His redemption), ---> THE CROSS!
- Eternity future. (His promises) ---> HEAVEN!

SO HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THIS GENEROUS GOD?

1) RECEIVE HIM. Turn to Him in repentance and belief.

JOHN 1:11-12

He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

MARK 1:14-15

Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Do not reject Him. (vs 11 above) Do not neglect Him. (vs 3 below)

HEBREWS2:1-3

1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. 2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

2) REJOICE IN HIM. Live for Him in GRATITUDE and WORSHIP.

1 CHRONICLES 16:34-36 (And don't miss Psalm 34 -- Amazing.)

O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting. 35 Then say, "Save us, O God of our salvation, And gather us and deliver us from the nations, To give thanks to Your holy name, And glory in Your praise." 36 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, From everlasting even to everlasting. Then all the people said, "Amen," and praised the LORD.

3) **IMITATE HIM. Give as He gave in generosity and gladness.**

EPHESIANS 5:1-2

Therefore **be imitators of God**, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

HEBREWS 12:1-2

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2 looking to Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

SO HOW DO WE GIVE LIKE GOD GIVES?

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

(Paul is asking the Corinthian believers to help the Jerusalem believers)

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9 As it is written,

“He has distributed **freely**, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and **increase** the harvest of your righteousness. 11 **You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way**, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. 13 By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the **generosity** of your contribution for them and for all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. 15 **Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!**

1) We need to give **GENEROUSLY**. see vs 6

God has shown us how to give generously and bountifully.

The question really isn't, 'How much do I want to give?'

The real question is 'How much do I want to be blessed?'

2) We need to give **with the RIGHT EMOTION**. see vs 7

Immature people give fearfully or begrudgingly or pridefully.

Mature people give faithfully, sacrificially and cheerfully.

3) We need to give **with the RIGHT MOTIVATION**. see vs 8, vs 11, vs 12

Two Key motivations...

1) God blesses you so that you can bless others.

2) A right heart gives out of gratitude/thankfulness. vs 12

4) May we never forget the measure of **God's inexpressible gift: JESUS CHRIST**. see vs 15

ROMANS 8:32

God did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all,
how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

YOUR VIEW OF GOD'S GIVING UNTIL NOW:

*How have you viewed God's willingness to give you what you want?
How have you viewed God's willingness to give you what you need?
What may effect these view points?*

*Had you ever considered the comprehensive nature of God's generosity before?
If yes, what prompted that?
If no, why might you have NOT contemplated that before?*

NOTICE THE BACKGROUND of our Key Passage 1 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15:

2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-5 (The Collection for the Christians in Jerusalem)

1 For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you. 2 For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? 3 And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. 4 For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

OUR MAIN PASSAGE of vs 6-15 --

1) NOTICE the ' _____ ' is mentioned: in vs 6

Here it is... 'YOU _____ WHAT YOU _____.'

Job 4:8; Psalm 126:5; Proverbs 22:8; Jeremiah 12:13; Matthew 6:26; John 4:36-37; Gal 6:7

This is true in _____ YOU SOW or _____.

This is true in _____ YOU SOW or _____.

2) Are there conflicting motivations for giving?

ie... 'giving to _____' or 'giving because you want _____'

MALACHI 3:6-12

*6 "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. 7 From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?' 8 Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. 10 **Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.** 11 I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. 12 Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.*

3) What exactly does it mean 'for the Lord loves a cheerful giver'?

- how does the background of the passage help this understanding?
- Does God love the kind of giver you are?

4) How does one go from being a _____ giver to an obedient giver to a _____ giver?

HEBREWS 12:11

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.