

Bay City Wesleyan Church
January 17, 2021

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Generosity: Giving It All

Most of us give at one time or another. We might put a few coins in the Salvation Army's little red kettle during the holidays. Or chip in for flowers when a coworker's family member passes.

We give but few of us like to give. Generosity feels strange. It goes against our common sense.

In this 3-part series, our Preaching-Teaching team invites you to discover the life-changing power of generosity.

<http://bible.com/events/48405840>
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<https://imageproxy.youversionapi.com/320x320/https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mushroom-event-images-prod/29135966-1610832371145.jpg>

Rebekka Garvison could feel the passengers' eyes rolling as she walked toward her seat carrying her newborn, Rylee. They were flying from Kalamazoo, Michigan, to Fort Rucker, Alabama, where Rebekka's husband was stationed. Minutes into the flight, Rylee wailed. A nearby couple glared, so Rebekka moved. Rylee was still crying when their seatmate, Nyfasha Miller, asked if she could try holding her. Rylee quickly fell asleep in Miller's arms and stayed that way throughout the flight. "Nyfasha Miller, you will never understand how happy this act of kindness has made my family," Rebekka wrote on Facebook. "You could've just been irritated like everyone else, but you held Rylee the entire flight and let me get some rest and peace of mind."

- Source: CBS News- <https://www.rd.com/article/extraordinary-generosity/>

God invites us to give of what has been given to us so that His love and glory can be shared with everyone.

1 Chronicles 29:10-15 NLT

<small>10</small> Then David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly: "O Lord , the God of our ancestor Israel, may you be praised forever and ever! <small>11</small> Yours, O Lord , is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O Lord , and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things. <small>12</small> Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything. Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion people are made great and given strength. <small>13</small> "O our God, we thank you and praise your glorious name! <small>14</small> But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us! <small>15</small> We are here for only a moment, visitors and strangers in the land as our ancestors were before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace.

<https://bible.com/bible/116/1ch.29.10-15.NLT>

2 Corinthians 8:1-7 NLT

1</small> Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. 2</small> They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. 3</small> For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. 4</small> They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. 5</small> They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do. 6</small> So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. 7</small> Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.

<https://bible.com/bible/116/2co.8.1-7.NLT>

7 Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.

You and your church may excel in other areas, but God urges all of us to be generous.

Even in their need, the churches in Macedonia gave cheerfully!

Now, God isn't asking you to be bad stewards of what you've been given, but to be good managers of the blessings of time, talents, and treasures.

Prayerfully consider what it is that God will have you give.

Is it your time?

Is it your talent?

Is it your treasure?

Luke 6:36-37 NLT

36</small> You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate. 37</small> "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.

<https://bible.com/bible/116/luk.6.36-37.NLT>

Psalms 41:1-3 NLT

1</small> Oh, the joys of those who are kind to the poor! The Lord rescues them when they are in trouble. 2</small> The Lord protects them and keeps them alive. He gives them prosperity in the land and rescues them

from their enemies. 3</small> The Lord nurses them when they are sick and restores them to health.
<https://bible.com/bible/116/psa.41.1-3.NLT>

Mark 12:41-44 NLT

41</small> Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. 42</small> Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. 43</small> Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. 44</small> For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on."

<https://bible.com/bible/116/mrk.12.41-44.NLT>

Sermon in a sentence: Give out of your blessings- time, talent, and treasure- to those who have less.

Giving out of God's storehouses to others will give God the glory.

Some people will depend on or do depend on your generosity to get through something.

Maybe you have found yourself in need at one time or another.
Did God provide? Who did He use? How did it happen?