

Overflowing With Generosity!

"Overflow" Series- Part 03

Share/Connect time: *You are home and alone (no pets or other people). Your house catches on fire and you can only carry out one possession, what will it be? Why is this possession important to you?*

When it comes to generosity, it's common to think about generosity and giving as it relates to our finances. In a recent article on pertaining to the National Day of Giving, the author stated that it's great when people have determined to give their **L.I.F.E.** away. This acronym reflects areas of opportunity to be generous stewards in these aspects of our lives: L.I.F.E. is an acronym for the following aspects of our life that we can be generous stewards:

Labor-
Influence-
Finance-
Expertise-

Briefly discuss how it is possible and practical to give away the above to others.

In our study today, let's look at a number of Scriptures that will help us define God's definition of generosity.

Book: Various Readings from Matthew, I Corinthians, and Ephesians

Matthew 6:19 "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal.

Matthew 6:20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

1Cor. 16:1 Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God's people in Jerusalem. You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia.

1Cor. 16:2 On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.

2Co 9:6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.

2Co 9:7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

2Co 9:8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

Ephesians 4:26 And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry,

Ephesians 4:27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

Ephesians 4:28 If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need.

Ephesians 4:29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Let's get into the Word:

According to Matthew 6:19-20, what is the eventual value of wealth?

How do we accomplish a lifestyle of giving (time, gifts, resources) that will make an eternal difference?

Can you share an example of a time when you believe your gift(s) has influenced eternity?

When we read Paul's instructions to the Corinthian believers in the above scriptures, what principals do we learn about our giving and generosity?

Review the Ephesian verses and describe how generosity can be applied to Paul's instruction for godly living:

Based on the principles we have discussed today, how should God's definition of generosity impact our stewardship of all that He has blessed us with?

A challenge to consider:

In what area of your finances do you find it difficult to trust God? What steps do you need to take to allow God to prove Himself faithful?

If you reflected on the challenge "*Give your L.I.F.E. away*", in which of the four aspects (Labor, Influence, Finances, and Expertise) would you like to increase your generosity? How will you do that?