

## FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED -

### Generosity Sustains Our Family

March 12, 2023 2 Corinthians 8-9

#### OPENING QUESTION

What's the difference between a thermostat and a thermometer? What might this metaphor have to do with generosity and money?

#### TO LIVE AND LOVE LIKE JESUS AS FAMILY, WE MUST BE COMMITTED TO GENEROSITY

The Four Core Values at Northwood Church

- Consumed with Jesus
  - Cultivating Relationships
  - Courageously Loving All People
  - Committed to Generosity
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- The number one thing that God's promises in the Bible deal with is generosity with our time, talent, & treasure. So to teach the Bible we have to talk about money and generosity.
  - Some churches see money as a thermostat - turn it up hot and talk about it all the time as a means to give so you can get. Other churches turn it to cold and don't talk about it at all.
  - Money is more of a thermometer for our FAITH. It shows us how much the grace of God has worked itself into every compartment of our lives.

Would you say you are closed handed and self-seeking, or open-handed and Kingdom-seeking? Jesus cares about your heart more than anything; in Matthew 6:21 He stated plainly "where your money is, so your heart follows." If you followed your money, would it reveal much about where you are in your walk with Christ?

#### A COMMITMENT TO GENEROSITY SUSTAINS OUR FAMILY JOY -

2 Corinthians 8:1-3, 9:12

- Here Paul hits a lot of the primary principles of generosity and giving and why it is integral to our faith and God's mission in the world.
- [Severe Trial + Extreme Poverty] + ABUNDANT JOY = Wealth of Generosity
- Be ready to give, proportionate to what you have, out of your free will, with a cheerful heart.
- Abundant joy is a byproduct of Jesus's grace!

What are some misconceptions about giving? Do you have to be rich to give generously? When you give, do you expect something in return ("give to get")?

#### A COMMITMENT TO GENEROSITY SUSTAINS OUR FAMILY MISSION -


2 Corinthians 8:4-9, 9:13-15

- *Koinonia* (v.4) - "taking part," partake, partnership, fellowship, co-laborers
- Unity is necessary: Judean Church and Acaian, Macedonian, Roman, Gentile Church. Jew and Gentile as one family continuing the mission of Jesus in the World. Only bring our resources together so we thrive in love, joy, and generosity towards one another and those we are called to reach.
- We are interconnected as brothers and sisters, benefactors of the same Abundant grace; God meets our needs!
- "They gave themselves first to the Lord"(v.5) - a commitment to generosity continually makes us more like Jesus (8:9) and to be consumed with Jesus, makes us more committed to generosity
- Give for the first time; Give regularly; Give when it's hard to; Give when we do not see a result; Give sacrificially

What are the barriers that might keep you from being generous? What is the misconception or barrier that you insert into this equation?

\_\_\_\_\_ + ABUNDANCE OF JOY = Wealth of Generosity

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## CLOSING QUESTIONS

### Hear

What are some things that stood out to you in this week's sermon and Scriptures?

### Obey

Do you consider yourself a generous person? How are you investing in the Kingdom of God? Are there barriers to your being generous with the wealth God has given you? How can you worship Him through offerings and sacrificial giving, regardless of your circumstances?

### Pray

Pray for God to show you how much He has blessed you, and how giving is not for Him, but for you. God doesn't need your money, but He is also not cheap.

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

- Jesus, Matthew 6:21