

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT GENEROSITY?

Luke 21:1-4

Generosity is the quality of being kind and unselfish, especially as it pertains to sharing money and other valuables with others. The Bible has a lot to say about generosity as a desirable character trait. *Proverbs 22:9* says, “*The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.*” God is generous, and He expects us to follow His example.

1. Examine the following verses. What do they teach us about generosity?

- Acts 20:32-35
- Luke 6:37-38
- Proverbs 11:24-25

God’s generosity is evidenced all around us. God created this planet that is especially suited to sustain us and provide for our needs and pleasures. He supplies us with color, light, sound, air, and the ability to taste and enjoy, hear, and appreciate, touch and be satisfied. Above all, God demonstrated His generosity when He offered His Son as a sacrifice to atone for our sin. In the face of such generosity, we can only say, “*Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*” (*2 Corinthians 9:15*). The gift of Jesus to sinful mankind was the ultimate act of generosity.

2. Examine the following verses. What do they teach you about generosity of God?

- “Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through Christ, God has blessed us generously. He has given us every spiritual blessing that heaven has to offer. Everything we need according to our need and faith. Ephesians 1:3 GEV

- “Through the blood of his Son, we are set free from our sins. God forgives our failures because of his overflowing kindness and generosity. He poured out his kindness to us, generously giving us every kind of wisdom and insight” Ephesians 1:7-8 GEV
- “If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He is generous to everyone and will give you wisdom without criticizing you.” James 1:5 NCV
- “My God in heaven has plenty of good and valuable things. Because you belong to Christ Jesus, God generously gives to you everything that you need.” Philippians 4:19 GEV

As we have been forgiven, we are to forgive (Ephesians 4:32). And as we see God being generous, we are to be generous. Generosity can be manifested in many ways. We can give of our time, our material resources, our hospitality, and our friendship. The Bible teaches the general principle that those who are generous will find favor: “*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. People curse the one who hoards grain, but they pray God’s blessing on the one who is willing to sell*” (Proverbs 11:24–26). God’s Word is clear that generous is remembered and rewarded, whether in this life or the next.

3. Examine the following verses. What do they teach you about generosity toward others?

- 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- 1 John 3:17
- Mark 12:41-44

God challenges us to be generous because He wants us to receive the blessing that comes from it. Jesus said, “*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be*

poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” (Luke 6:38).

4. What happens when we are generous with what has been given to us?
5. What is one principle from Luke 6:38 about generosity?

We should show generosity to everyone, as we have opportunity: *“Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you” (Matthew 5:42).* Former thieves must leave their past life behind and *“work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need” (Ephesians 4:28).* The rich should *“be generous and willing to share” (1 Timothy 6:18).*

6. What principles do you find in Matthew 5:42, Ephesians 4:28 and 1 Timothy 6:18 from the above paragraph?
7. How can you apply them to your life?
8. On a scaled of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest, where would you rate yourself on generosity? How can you move up one number?

God is seeking people who will reflect His character and model His generosity. He delights to bless them and show Himself strong on their behalf. We can apply these encouragements to our own lives and strive to be generous and wise with everything God has entrusted to us.