

# Greenslopes Baptist Church

## Series: Choices

### Key Verse

*This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before your life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.*

*Deuteronomy 30:19*

### Part 4: I choose to live a life of generosity

#### Background

Jesus' prophetic pronouncement (Acts 1:8)

The baptism and filling of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4)

The fellowship of the believers (Acts 2:42-47)

The believers share their possessions (Acts 4:32-35)

#### Comment

#### The definition of "generosity"

The dictionary definition

*Generosity: the quality of being kind, and generous, and understanding, not selfish; the quality of being generous; willingness to give money and other valuable things to others*

## **The biblical understanding of generosity**

Some simple understanding of supernatural generosity

1. Generosity has as its foundation, appreciation for all God has done for us  
*John 3:16-17; Romans 5*

2. Generosity is a simple act  
*Hebrews 13:16*

3. Generosity is all about the heart  
*1 Corinthians 13:3*

4. Generosity involves more than just money  
*1 Timothy 6:18*

5. Generosity teaches us to trust God  
*1 Timothy 6:17-19*

6. Generosity is a blessing  
*Acts 20:35*

7. Sowing is related to reaping  
*Galatians 6:7-10*

8. Our generosity, although appreciated should never warrant any personal merit, because God own everything and our generosity is really from “the Bank of Heaven” owned by God  
*Psalms 24:1; 1 Chronicles 29:11-14*

## **Developing a spirit of generosity**

### **What is a spirit of generosity?**

To have generosity of spirit is *to act with kindness, to be open and willing to share with others without any expectation of receiving something back in return. It means to celebrate the success and efforts of others without envy or resentment.*

### **How do you develop a spirit of generosity?**

1. Seek the filling of the Holy Spirit
2. Meditate on Biblical examples
3. Positively program your generosity
4. Remember: Generosity is freely given without strings attached.
5. Start with generosity
6. Think abundantly
7. Have empathy for people's needs
8. Create more opportunities
9. Be an active listener both to God and those in need
10. Give the benefit of the doubt

### **Generosity is a fruit of the Spirit?**

#### **What does God say about generosity?**

***2 Corinthians 9:6-8***

#### **What is an example of generosity?**

Generosity **teaches us to trust God**. The Bible reminds us that life on earth is uncertain and nothing is guaranteed, but when we put our hope in God's provision, we can rest assured that he'll provide for our needs. Giving to others helps us tangibly practice trusting in God rather than our riches or belongings.

**A spirit of generosity can reach deeply into every corner of our lives. We could also practice being generous with our praise and appreciation.**

#### **Quotes and stories about generosity**

##### **Learning to be generous**

##### **Generosity that builds the church**

Refer to the story "***The Rabbis Gift***" as included in the Church News

## **Prayer of commitment**

*Heavenly Father, I thank you for Your generosity in providing your Son Jesus to die for me and for unconditionally loving me as a sinner. There is no greater example of generosity than You, Lord. Thank You for being kind to me even when I have not been my best. You are perfect in every detail. You are a loving, caring God who keeps His promises, and for that I thank You. Father, like You, I want to be generous with those around me, whether they are people I know and are close to me or not.*

*I know that sometimes I am not my best version of generosity, but I want, with the help of Your Holy Spirit, to be more generous every day, overcoming any lack I have. May I be a generous person with all those I meet. I want, through my attitudes, to attract more people to draw closer to You. I choose to be an example wherever I go. Help me to be a person others can trust, and for people to feel Your love through my attitudes and behavior. I pray this in Jesus' precious name. Amen.*

## **For Reflection and discussion**

1. Read through the message outline reflecting on your “spirit of generosity”.
2. What is your personal assessment of your level of generosity, and what would you need to do to improve your standing in this essential spiritual discipline?
3. How would you rate the “spirit of generosity” at your church?
4. What would be needed from you and others to assist in developing your church in the area of generosity that mirrors the passages listed from the Book of Acts of Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-37?
5. Spend time discussing your findings with others and pray for each other for increasing maturity in the area of generosity.