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**Blessed Are The Generous!**

**It pays to be a CHANNEL rather than a CONTAINER of God's blessings!**

Acts 20:35, NIV  
You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Proverbs 11:25, NIV & ESV  
A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed...Whoever brings blessings will be enriched, and the one who waters will himself be watered.

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**Why We Live! Why We Work!**

**God expects a share of our income to be shared.**

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

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### Get 'Er Done!

**We aren't actually generous until we follow-through on our good intentions!**

2 Corinthians 8:10-11, NLT

Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving.

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### Get 'Er Done!

**Generosity is contagious—it's stirred by positive peer pressure.**

2 Corinthians 9:2 & 4, NLT

For I know how eager you are to help, and I have been boasting to the churches in Macedonia that you in Greece were ready to send an offering a year ago. In fact, it was your enthusiasm that stirred up many of the Macedonian believers to begin giving...We would be embarrassed—not to mention your own embarrassment—if some Macedonian believers came with me and found that you weren't ready after all I had told them!

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### Generosity = Loving Others Concretely

**Talk is cheap! Real love puts its money where its mouth is!**

2 Corinthians 8:8, NLT

I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of other churches.

1 John 3:17-18, NLT

If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need, but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other, let us show the truth by our actions.

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**Love Wants “Equality”**

(Fairness—not, Sameness)

**Share enough of your  
more-than-enough to help those with  
less-than-enough—so that everyone has enough!**

2 Corinthians 8:13-14, NIV

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard-pressed, but that there might be equality [“fairness”, ESV]. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need.

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**An OT Illustration Of “Equality”**

**NT Christians should love others  
by voluntarily embracing what God  
enforced when he provided manna in the desert.**

2 Corinthians 8:14-15 (Exodus 16:18), NIV

The goal is equality (“fairness”, ESV), as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”

***Nobody hoarded! Nobody starved!***

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**Attention: Rich American Christians!**  
see [globalrichlist.com](http://globalrichlist.com)

**We all have more than enough!**  
**So, each of us must ask ourselves (and our Lord!):**  
*How much of our surplus is excess surplus?*

**The Challenge**

Selfless Generosity In A “Selfie” Culture!

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## Remembering Jesus!

*The ultimate example of selfless generosity!*

*The ultimate incentive for being generous!*

2 Corinthians 8:9, NLT

You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

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