

Monday, October 14. Read 2 Corinthians 9:11. What would it look like to be generous on every occasion? And how awesome is it to think that our generosity will bring both us and others a heart of thanksgiving. It's a win/win to be generous with our money, our stuff, our resources, our connections, and our hearts! Can you imagine that the Lord will enrich us in every way and our generosity will increase? It's hard to fully embrace how our life would change but it's worth the effort to try to be generous on every occasion! This week's goal is to be generous on every occasion. That means planning where you'll be, who you'll be with, and what you'll be doing. Why don't you put in your calendar every day: Be Generous! Then remember that's for every conversation, every meeting, every email, and every encounter with a neighbor or the cashier at the store. Be generous with everyone you talk to and everything you do and start right now on this adventure of generosity!

Tuesday, October 15. Read Proverbs 11:25; Luke 6:38. Though the Lord asks us to be selfless, have you ever thought that Christianity is actually a very selfish belief system, simply for the reason that God blesses those who follow His word? I tell people who are questioning taking the leap to believe in Jesus, that God has created a world with consequences and rewards. My life is better and richer because I obey Jesus! If we follow Him we experience more fruit, more abundance, and more peace and joy. We will be refreshed, we will prosper, and a good measure of blessings will be poured into our lap. If we choose to live life our way, we miss out on all the rewards that God offers us and we experience the consequences of Divine disobedience. That's an amazing concept. God doesn't promise that our life will be easier, but He does promise in this verse that a generous person will prosper. Do you consider yourself a generous person? How can you go above and beyond? How can you give more or refresh more people? Focus in on a person who is on your mind right now and choose to do some act of generosity for them. Would they need a note of encouragement, a call for you to pray with them, or a gift of money? Take that extra step right now to pour into another person. And then you will probably experience a blessing poured into your lap as well. Don't do it for that reason, but be ready for a subtle, or even an obvious, reward from the Lord for your selfless and generous act toward another person.

Wednesday, October 16. Read Proverbs 22:9, 1 John 3:17. We often think of the word pity as a negative word. To have pity on someone sounds demeaning. And yet in God's language, pity is sympathy and compassion. We need to show more godly pity on all the needy people around us - both our familial brothers and sisters and our Christian brothers and sisters, no matter who they are. We want to show the love of God to all people and that starts with a generous heart. Choose one person you're worried about or you feel pity for. Reach out to that person today with a generous gift, or offer them resources, time, love and, your prayers. Make a Christ-like random act of kindness toward someone in need today by sharing a meal or anything that you have and they don't have. You'll see how rich you really are and how easy it is to generously bless others.

Thursday, October 17. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6. The farmer's analogy of sowing and reaping is so clear when it comes to generosity. When a farmer works hard to sow his field, he receives a rich and large harvest as his reward. When we sow into others through our generosity we can reap a rich harvest of fruit as well. But the opposite is also true. We can't be lazy or sow sparingly or we will reap sparingly and for farmers that means not having enough to get through that season. Have you ever experienced not having enough of God's peace, strength, joy, or the fruits of the Spirit? Maybe that's because you have been sowing into others' sparingly... Make a list of 5 people or families you need to sow into. It could be family, neighbors, co-workers, and your children's friend' parents, the teller at your bank.... Choose to sow into those five people in the next month. Be generous as you act into this commitment and you will see that by sowing generously you will reap generously. Start now and have fun

Friday, October 18. Read 2 Corinthians 8:2. This verse is so humbling. As we read about the Christians in the early days, they were selling property and giving it to one another, opening their homes for people to stay in, and giving away money and food to anyone in need. And today, we are taught to make sure we own a home and have a savings plan, a pension, a 401K, and a college savings account, along with health insurance, life insurance, and long term insurance, etc., etc. If we truly believed that in the midst of very extreme poverty we can overflow with joy and well up in rich generosity, I think we would be more generous with what we have, without the fear of not having enough. God is faithful to supply our daily bread. It's up to us to share what we have with others and find deeper joy in the process. If we have never experienced severe poverty or trials, then we should be even more generous with what we have! Ask God right now to experience a miracle in your life. Ask Him to show you how He can create joy in you when you don't feel it, or make you generous in the midst of severe poverty. Ask Him to change your heart, to take away your fear and to give to others from all that you have. And be sure to ask with an expectant heart. This verse is true, so you want to live it out without missing the rewards He promises to those who obey. He's ready to give you a miracle in your heart and life, so just ask Him.

Saturday, October 19. Read Deuteronomy 15:10. Giving generously doesn't always mean just with money or resources. We can have a grudging heart and not give people love, grace, mercy, or the benefit of the doubt. Are you judging your political leaders or your culture shapers with a grudging heart and not offering them your generous prayers, kind words, or service? Giving generously to your political or entertainment leaders can open you up to amazing possibilities and opportunities. And it will take away grudges, anger, frustration, or judgment, allowing God to bless you in all your work and everything you put your hand to. Think about the people in our country's political or cultural leadership whom you have judged lately. Have you ever written an angry letter to someone in Washington DC or in Hollywood? Have you talked against them to others, or have you cursed them in your heart? Why don't you give love generously to a leader in our country and write them a letter of support, encouragement, or loving prayer? We want to bless those who are impacting our culture and to be generous to them with our words and our love!

Adapted from <http://hollywoodprayernetwork.org>