

## BUILDING A GODLY LIFE SERIES

Three Godly traits if you will build into your life will lead to financial prosperity!  
THRIFTINESS B GENEROSITY B RESPONSIBILITY

I. GENEROSITY IS DEMONSTRATING THE NATURE OF GOD BY SHARING WITH OTHERS THE RESOURCES THAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US.

II. GOD EXPECTS US TO BE GENEROUS SO WE WILL BE LIKE HIM.

III. WITH WHOM ARE WE TO BE GENEROUS?

A. Since we are commanded to put God first in our lives, then we should first be generous with God.

1. God has given us specific instructions on how to start being generous with Him.
2. He tells us to bring a tenth of our increase to the place He has designated.

Mal. 3:10, “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house...” (NKJV)

3. How does being generous with God, by giving Him His tithes and offerings, lead to our financial prosperity?

Mal. 3:10-12, “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so that there will be food enough in my Temple; if you do, I will open up the windows of heaven for you and pour out a blessing so great you won't have room enough to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you! Your crops will be large, for I will guard them from insects and plagues. Your grapes won't shrivel away before they ripen, says the Lord Almighty. And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land sparkling with happiness. These are the promises of the Lord Almighty.” (TLB)

Jesus taught this principle by the following statements:

Matt. 6:33, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (NKJV)

Luke 6:38, “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” (NKJV)

4. However, if we do not honor God with our increase, we are actually taking what rightfully belongs to God, thus robbing Him. He then allows our wealth to be devoured by situations and circumstances beyond our control.

5. Why are we to be generous with God? To honor God.

Prov. 3:9, "Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase:" (KJV)

6. Being generous with God teaches us to put God first in our lives.

Deut. 14:22-23, "You must tithe all of your crops every year. Bring this tithe to eat before the Lord your God at the place he shall choose as his sanctuary; this applies to your tithes of grain, new wine, olive oil, and the firstborn of your flocks and herds. The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives." (TLB)

With whom are we to be generous?

B. Other Christians.

Gal. 6:10, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." (NKJV)

1 John 3:17-18, "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." (NIV)

C. Other people.

Gal. 6:10, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all."

With whom are we to be generous?

D. Our family.

1 Tim.5:8, "But anyone who won't care for his own relatives when they need help, especially those living in his own family, has no right to say he is a Christian. Such a person is worse than the heathen." (TLB)

#### IV. WHAT ARE THE REWARDS OF BIBLICAL GENEROSITY?

A. We will be blessed more by God.

1. Many people refuse to be generous because they falsely believe that what they give, they lose. Yet the opposite is true.

Luke 6:38, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (KJV)

B. We will have more treasures in life after this life - Heaven.

C. We will have victory over the "root of evil" which causes a lot of avoidable problems in life.

1 Tim. 6:8-10, "And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (NKJV)

#### V. HOW DO WE BECOME BIBLICALLY GENEROUS?

A. Start putting God first in your giving by tithing.

B. Start believing God will bless you more if you do.

C. Start practicing a Biblical spending plan of being conservative in your wants.