

November 12, 2017
Aveleigh's Stewardship and Baptism Sunday
Week 11 of 11 The Happiness Project
Sermon: HAPPINESS IS GENEROUS
Texts, 2 Cor. 8:1-5 MSG p.1242, & Phil. 4:14-20 p. 1262

"I want you to know about (the church at Philippi's) generosity... Even while suffering in severe trials and extreme poverty, their lives have overflowed with joy because of their amazing generosity. I personally witnessed their giving not simply giving what they could afford. But giving even beyond their human ability! No one told them to do it. It was due to their own generous hearts. In fact they begged and pleaded for the privilege of giving to serve God's people. And they gave in a way we did not expect: They first gave themselves to the Lord and then to us. That is what pleases God!" 2 Cor. 8:1-5

Intro: PHILIPPIANS 4:14-20

Philippians 4:19 *"You can be sure that God will take care of everything you need, his generosity exceeding yours, in the glory that pours from Jesus."*

GENEROUS BENEFITS ME..

1. THE FIRST BENEFIT OF GENEROSITY IS I EARN THE GRATITUDE OF OTHERS.

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to God...because you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ...It is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a very special place in my heart. We have shared together the blessings of God." Ph. 1:3, 5, 7 (NLT)

2. I SHOW WHAT REALLY MATTERS MOST.

"I want you to understand what really matters..." Ph. 1:10 (NLT)

3. I BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS.

"Don't just look out for your own interests, but look also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." Ph. 2:4-5

4. EVERY TIME I'M GENEROUS I STRENGTHEN MY FAITH.

"Do not worry about anything, instead pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks." Ph. 4:6

5. EVERY TIME I’M GENEROUS I INVEST IN MY ETERNAL HAPPINESS *“Though I appreciate your gifts, what makes me happiest is the well-earned reward you will receive because of your generosity” Phil. 4:17*

6. EVERY TIME I’M GENEROUS I MAKE GOD SMILE.

“Your gifts are like a fragrant offering to God, a sacrifice that God accepts, and is pleasing to Him.” Ph. 4:18

Conclusion THE PROMISE

“THEN God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”Ph. 4:19

2 WAYS TO BE GENEROUS

1. BY REASON

What can I afford?

2. BY REVELATION

God, what do you want to give through me?

“Remember the words that Jesus himself said, ‘There’s more HAPPINESS in giving than in receiving!’” Acts 20:35

Prayer: Lord, I want to thank you. I want to thank you for all the things you’ve given me. Thank you that you made me. Thank you that you created me. Thank you that you gifted me. Thank you that you’ve saved me. Thank you that I live in America. Thank you for freedom. Thank you for health. Thank you for eyes to see and ears to hear. Thank you for my wife. I thank you for my kids, my grandkids. I thank you for this church. I thank you for so many dear, dear friends that I love. I thank you for the joy of having a purpose in life. I thank you for how you’ve used by life. I thank you for how you’ve blessed my life. I could go on, Lord. This Thanksgiving I want to give thanks by giving. I pray just like everyone else, you show me what you want me to do. Give through me. Not what can I afford. But what do you want to give through me this Thanksgiving?

Four For the Road: 1. How do you feel about generosity?

2. Who do you think of as a generous person?

3. Has God been generous with you?

4. Do other people think of you as a generous person? Does God see you as generous?

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Call to worship

One: Wade into the waters of love;
All: Step into the rivers of blessing.
One: Here, find the renewing streams of mercy.
All: Here, taste the wonder of God's goodness.
One: Feel the waters of life;
All: Know the joy of baptism;
One: All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, so thank our God
All: For joy in living, every happy day
One: And things in all sizes.
All: All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,

Prayer of confession

Lord, We want to thank You. We want to thank You for all the opportunities You've given us. Thank You that You made us. Thank You that You created us, thank You that You gifted us. Thank you that you've saved us. Thank you that we live in America. Thank you for freedom. Thank you for health. Thank you for eyes to see and ears to hear. Thank you for my friends, loved ones and our church family. We thank you for this church. We thank you for so many dear, dear friends that we love. We thank you for the joy of having a purpose in life. We thank you for how you've used our lives. We thank you for how you've blessed our lives. We could go on, Lord. This Thanksgiving we want to give thanks by giving. We pray You will show us what You want us to do. Give through us. Not what we can afford. But what You want us to give that we might make You our God smile and allow us to know the *happiness of generosity*. Amen.