



**Part 3: Am I Generous?
Pastor Dave Patterson
Small Group Sermon Notes**

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

Generosity is a heart condition.

[Proverbs 11.24, MSG]

The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.

THE BLESSED LIFE:

God's favor resting on your life

God's provision flowing through your life

God's will being done in your life

[2 Corinthians 9.6]

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

[Ecclesiastes 11.1]

Send your grain across the seas, and in time, profits will flow back to you.

[Proverbs 19.17]

If you help the poor, you are lending to the LORD--and he will repay you!

[Luke 6.37-38]

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

[Proverbs 11.24-25]

*Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. **The generous will prosper**; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.*

[Proverbs 22.9]

Generous people are genuinely blessed.

[1 Timothy 6.17-18]

***Command those** who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*

***Command them** to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*

[2 Corinthians 8.1-7]

*And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very **severe trial**, their **overflowing joy** and their **poverty** welled up in **rich generosity**.*

Principles of Biblical Generosity and NT Giving:

1. **Generosity is not a financial position; it's a heart condition!**

[2 Corinthians 8.1-7 (cont.)]

*For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They **gave themselves first of all** to The Lord and then to us, just as God wanted them to do. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But **since you excel** (you're strong & moving forward) in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you--see that you also **excel in this grace of giving**.*

2. Giving should be motivated by grace, not law!

[2 Corinthians 8.8]

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

[2 Corinthians 9.6]

So, remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

***Grace is: diving enablement, favor we don't deserve,
and God reaching down to us.***

3. We are directly involved in determining our harvest.

[2 Corinthians 9.7-8]

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God is able to **make all grace abound to you** then you will always have everything you need and **plenty left over to share with others.** As a result of your ministry, they will give **glory to God.** For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.

4. Invest in faith what you have been given by Grace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What motivates you to give, to serve, and to take ownership in the local church?**
- 2. How is the "grace factor" such a big deal to biblical generosity? What does that do to influence a heart condition in us?**
- 3. How are we directly involved in "determining our harvest" (what's supplied and multiplied to us)? How have you witnessed or experienced that?**
- 4. What are the "seeds that God has put in your hand?" What will the message of generosity look like in your life?**