

Prayer Path - Simply Church Series

Simply Church, Part 2 - The Value of Generosity (Acts 20:35/2 Cor. 8:2-7; 9:8)

Acts 20:35, *"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

One of Bethesda's core values is generosity. In the message this week, we learned that generosity was also a core value of the Early Church. They gave to meet needs. They gave cheerfully. They gave sacrificially. They gave to advance the Gospel message. They did not have a scarcity mindset, thinking that if they gave, they would go without. No, they gave joyfully, and the result that God blessed their giving.

Now, there are a variety of ways we can be generous. Yes, we can be generous with our finances, but we can also be generous with our time, using it to help others, serving in an area at Bethesda, volunteering with a community organization, etc. We can also be generous with our prayers, by taking time to pray for others, for difficult situations, for broken marriages and relationship, for health challenges, financial troubles, for someone who is seeking direction, and so many other things.

When it comes to praying generously, we need to avoid having a scarcity mindset, thinking that our needs will not be met because we are focusing on the needs of others. No, in all things, it is better to give than receive, including prayer. In the Church, when we all give prayer away generously, we also receive the generous prayers of others who have the same mindset.

Questions/Challenge

1. What stood out to you from the message this week?
2. How can we be generous with the resources that God has given us? As a church? Individually? Maybe God is calling you to bless someone this week. Take some time to pray about it. Remember, it's never about the amount; it's about the heart.
3. Challenge yourself to start praying generously. Set aside some extra time to pray, believing that through your prayers, God would take care of the needs of others, would open up doors, and would change people's lives in our city and beyond.

Scriptures

Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 6:30, 38; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 2 Corinthians 9:7, 10-11; 1 Timothy 6:17-19