

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Generosity

Proverbs 11:25; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Luke 6:38

Definition: the trait of being willing to give your money or time (Webster). God's Word, from many scriptures, tells us that we are to be full of grace and be the hands and feet of Jesus on earth.

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed"

Segment Questions:

- Do you more than likely think once you "write a check" you are satisfying the principle of giving done? Give an example of other ways you are contributing to the Kingdom of God.
- Have you ever prayed and considered your talents (gifts) given to you and how to put them into action?
- Read Luke 6:38 and discuss with the group if you really believe God's promise and have you seen an example in your life are others that testifies to His Word?

Action Questions:

The Generous Factor book by Blanchard and Cathy shares the difference between the

Transition from Success to Significant.

Success: Wealth, Achievements, Status

Significance: Generosity, Service, Relationships

(credit given to The Generosity Factor)

- Talk about this and think personally about your life.

Generosity

“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed”. *Proverbs 11:25 NIV*

When you think of generosity do you immediately think.... money? When Biblically it is as much about Time, Talent, and Treasure and not just about money.

I Peter 4:10-11 says, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen”.

I occurred to me years ago that writing a check was easier than taking my time. I repented of that thinking, but it is easy to fall in a routine of just giving money. This is VERY important as well since we can’t be in Russia or another foreign land with missionaries, who serve there, but we should and can contribute financially and it should be joyful and not exclude of gifts God has given.

If we consider I Peter 4 passage, we are ALL given a gift for the purpose of serving others as faithful stewards of His grace. This could mean any or all of the above Time, Talent, and Treasure. We are all rich with gifts to give to others in time of need. Whatever way you are sharing with others is it giving joy?

Several years ago I was reviewing the tax returns of a professional and to my shock he (a Christian) was tithing the Gross Income of his practice! Not a 10% tithe of his personal income after tax. I was taken back privately embarrassed of how I was tithing. The interesting thing he was doing this as a discipline learned at a young age and there was NO JOY. It was just the way it has always been with him. He was missing an important principle of the bible.