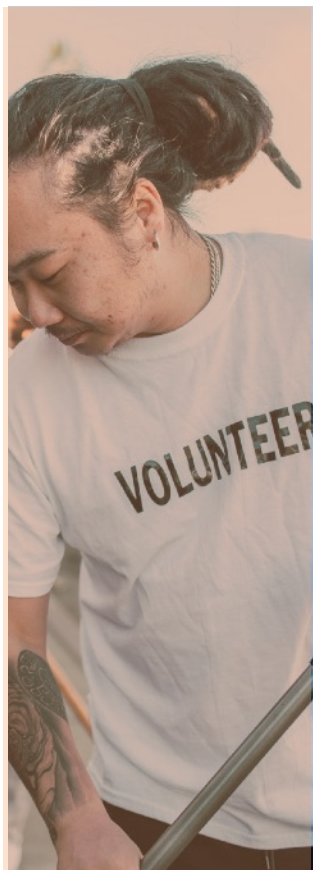
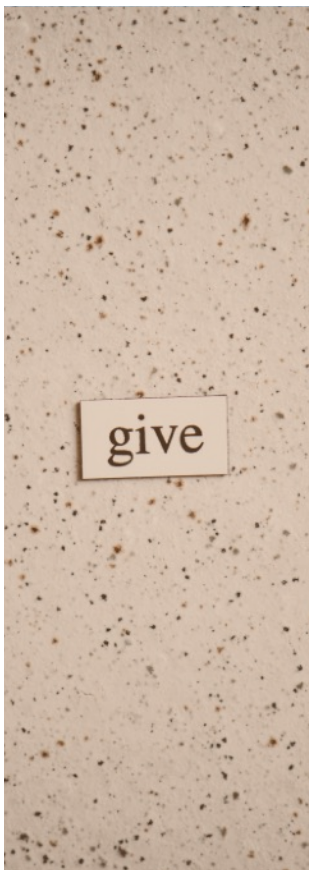


GENEROSITY

#6

A SPIRITUAL PRACTICES DEVOTIONAL

B/P



GENEROSITY

The Christian practice of generosity is deeply rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the principles found in the Bible. At its core, generosity is a selfless act of giving and sharing resources, time, and love with others without expecting anything in return. It is an expression of compassion, kindness, and a willingness to help those in need, regardless of their background or circumstances. Christians believe that generosity is not just a moral obligation but also a reflection of God's character, who is considered the ultimate giver, providing abundantly to His creation. This practice extends beyond financial offerings and includes giving one's talents, skills, and hospitality to benefit others. It is seen as an act of worship and an opportunity to participate in God's work of blessing and transforming lives, ultimately fostering a sense of community, unity, and interconnectedness among believers.

Christian generosity is exemplified in various biblical stories, such as the parable of the Good Samaritan, where an individual goes out of their way to help a stranger in distress. It also finds expression in the early Christian community, as described in the book of Acts, where believers willingly shared their possessions and resources with one another, ensuring that no one among them lacked anything. Generosity is often encouraged through regular tithing and giving to support the church's ministries and outreach efforts. It is also expressed in acts of charity and service to the marginalized and vulnerable, following Jesus' call to love one's neighbour as oneself. Ultimately, the Christian practice of generosity is not just about giving but cultivating a heart of love and compassion towards others, reflecting the love and grace received from God.

Day 26: The Joy of Giving

READ: **2 Corinthians 9:7** "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

THINK: Generosity is not merely a duty but an expression of our love for God and others. When we give with a joyful heart, we reflect the character of our Heavenly Father, who gave us His Son out of love. Our giving is not about meeting an obligation or seeking recognition but about participating in God's work of love and compassion. As we give, we discover the joy that comes from being channels of blessings and witnessing lives transformed through our acts of generosity.

DO: Today, take a moment to reflect on your giving habits. Are you giving with a cheerful heart? If you find yourself giving reluctantly or out of compulsion, pray and ask God to transform your heart and attitude toward giving. Consider one practical way you can give cheerfully to someone in need this week, whether it's financial support, time, or resources. Write their name below, what that act would look like, and when you could do it.



WHO?



HOW?



WHEN?

"The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration but its donation."

- Corrie Ten Boom

Day 27: Blessed to Be a Blessing

READ: **Genesis 12:2** "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."

THINK: God's covenant with Abraham would allow Him to receive blessings from God and be a blessing to others. As believers in Jesus, we are not just recipients of God's blessings, but we are called to be conduits of His blessings to others. Through our generosity, we acknowledge that everything we have comes from God, and we also recognize our role in sharing those blessings with those in need. As we give, we join God in His mission to bring healing, hope, and restoration to a broken world.

DO: Consider the social circles in your life. Identify three areas where God has placed you and where He might want to use you as an instrument for His blessing. It could be in your home, community, school, or workplace. Then identify those in that circle of influence who could use a helping hand. It could be a neighbour, a colleague, or someone you know facing a difficult situation. Reach out to them and offer your support through a kind word, a listening ear, or a practical act of service.

A Venn diagram consisting of three overlapping circles. Each circle contains a horizontal line followed by the word "Area", and two more horizontal lines followed by the word "Name".

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

- Winston Churchill

Day 28: The Widow's Mite

READ: Mark 12:41-44 "Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.'"

THINK: The story of the widow's mite teaches us a valuable lesson about the true essence of generosity. It's not about the size of our gift but the sincerity of our hearts. Jesus praised the widow for giving sacrificially, even though her offering seemed insignificant compared to others. Generosity is measured by our willingness to give sacrificially, not just with money but also our time, talents, and resources. God looks beyond the amount and sees the heart behind our giving.

DO: Today, allow the story of the widow's mite to inspire you to give from a place of genuine sacrifice and love. On the left, take some time to consider where you have been sacrificial in your life and to who. On the right, take some time to think about who has been sacrificial to you (parent, co-worker, friend)? What did they do for you, and have you acknowledged or thanked those who gave sacrificially to you? Put their names in the boxes below.

MY SACRIFICE TO OTHERS

OTHERS SACRIFICE TO ME

"No one has ever become poor by giving."

- Anne Frank

Day 29: Giving with a Grateful Heart

READ: **Psalm 107:1** "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

THINK: Gratitude and generosity are intricately connected. When we recognize the goodness and faithfulness of God in our lives, it naturally overflows into acts of charity towards others. Giving becomes an expression of our gratitude for God's blessings. As we give with a grateful heart, we acknowledge that all we have comes from God, and we are to trust Him to provide for our needs. Gratitude shifts our focus from what we lack to what we have, enabling us to give generously and joyfully.

DO: Spend time in prayer and reflection, counting your blessings and thanking God for His goodness in your life. Consider starting a gratitude journal to record what you are thankful for daily. As you cultivate a heart of gratitude, let it inspire you to give generously to others out of a sense of thankfulness. In the box below, try to write 25 things you are grateful to God for.

I'M GRATEFUL FOR:	
1.	14.
2.	15.
3.	16.
4.	17.
5.	18.
6.	19.
7.	20.
8.	21.
9.	22.
10.	23.
11.	24.
12.	25.
13.	

"The only investment that never fails is giving to others."

- Rick Warren

Day 30: Generosity That Transforms Lives

READ: **Luke 6:38** "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."

THINK: Jesus' words remind us of the transformative power of generosity. When we give with an open and generous heart, we not only impact the lives of others but also experience the blessings that come from living a generous life. God's economy works in mysterious ways. The more we give, the more we receive—not just in material wealth but also in joy, contentment, and a more profound sense of purpose. Generosity is not just a one-time interaction but a way of life that reflects our Heavenly Father's abundant love and grace.

DO: Reflect on the impact of generosity in your life. Have you experienced the transformative power of giving? Today, challenge yourself to step outside your comfort zone and give in a way that stretches your faith. It might be giving to a cause you haven't supported before or giving in a more significant way than you have in the past. Trust in God's promise that as you give, you will receive in ways that go beyond material possessions. Embrace the joy of living a generous life.



"God has given us two hands - one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing."

- Billy Graham

Scriptures About Giving

GOD IS GENEROUS AND WE ARE MADE IN HIS IMAGE

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:26–27)

OUR TREASURE IS NOT OUR EARTHLY POSSESSIONS

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19–21)

WE GIVE AS A RESPONSE TO GOD'S GOODNESS

“Every good and perfect gift is from above” (James 1:17).

WE ARE CALLED TO SHARE WITH THOSE LESS FORTUNATE.

“They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,” (1 Timothy 6:18)

“Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 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 saints” (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

GIVING BLESSES ME IN RETURN

“A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.” (Proverbs 22:9)

“Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice.” (Psalm 112:5)

