

MULTIPLY HOPE THROUGH OUR GENEROSITY

*Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.*

Romans 12:2 (TEV)

Multiply Hope for All Who Need Christ...

Multiply Hope for Those in our Community...

Multiply Hope for the Next Generation...

Multiply Hope in our Relationships...

❖ The Root of Generosity... KOINONIA (Shared Fellowship)

1. Koinonia is about COMMUNITY.

*If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if His love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends.*

Philippians 2:1-2 (MSG)

2. Koinonia relates to PARTICIPATION.

*Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?"*

1 Corinthians 10:16 (NIV)

3. Koinonia creates an expectation of CONTRIBUTION.

*For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.*

Romans 15:26 (NIV)

4. Koinonia promotes the practice of GENEROSITY.

*You will honor God through this genuine act of service because of your commitment to spread the Good News of Christ and because of your generosity in sharing with them and everyone else.*

2 Corinthians 9:13 (GW)

❖ Why Be Generous?

*"Your heart will be wherever your treasure is."*

Matthew 6:21 (NCV)

1. Generosity builds COMMUNITY.

*God will make you rich enough so that you can always be generous. Your generosity will produce thanksgiving to God because of us. What you do to serve others not only provides for the needs of God's people, but also produces more and more prayers of thanksgiving to God.*

2 Corinthians 9:11-12 (GW)

2. Generosity defeats MATERIALISM.

*"You cannot serve both God and money."*

Matthew 6:24b (NIV)

3. Generosity strengthens FAITH.

*Your giving proves the reality of your faith...*

2 Corinthians 9:13 (Ph)

*Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

4. Generosity promises REWARDS.

*"Use your worldly resources to benefit others...in this way, your generosity stores up a reward for you in heaven."*

Luke 16:9 (NLT)

5. Generosity releases God's BLESSINGS.

*Give generously...and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.*

Deuteronomy 15:10 (NIV)

6. Generosity produces HAPPINESS.

*"There is more happiness in giving than in receiving."*

Acts 20:35b (GN)

❖ How Can I Practice Generosity?

*You must make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure; for God loves a person who gives cheerfully.*

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

1. We are challenged to give THOUGHTFULLY.

*"You must make up your mind as to how much you should give..."*

2. We are challenged to give ENTHUSIASTICALLY.

*"Don't give reluctantly..."*

3. We are challenged to give, not out of guilt, but VOLUNTARILY.

*"Don't give...in response to pressure..."*

4. We are challenged to give with a joyful heart CHEERFULLY.

*"God loves a person who gives cheerfully."*

❖ CLOSING TRUTH: Generosity Reflects GOD'S HEART.

*Remember the generosity of Jesus Christ, the Lord of us all. He was rich beyond our telling, yet he became poor for your sake so that His poverty might make you rich.*

2 Corinthians 8:9 (Ph)

*We are saved because Jesus...out of sheer generosity moved to save us...*

Acts 15:11 (MSG)

*For God so loved the world, He gave...*

John 3:16 (NIV)