Generosity

Seek First | Week 4

Hayden | November 19th & 22nd 2026 | Gabe Cleave

SERIES RECAP

Week 1 — The Heart: God doesn't want your money. God wants your heart.
Week 2 — Stewardship: God owns everything.
Week 3 — Contentment: Contentment isn't found in what you have, but in who you have.

GENEROSITY GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND

"The tithe is a benchmark, a starting place. But our giving should go far beyond that as God enables us." — Billy Graham

Proverbs 11:24-25

One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.
A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Generosity is not giving to get rich. God's blessings are real, but they are not always financial.

THE BLESSINGS OF GIVING

Acts 20:35 (NLT)

And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: '<u>It is more blessed to give</u> than to receive.'"

Biblical support:

Proverbs 22:9 • Luke 6:38 • 1 Timothy 6:17–19 • Matthew 6:20

Scientific support:

The Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkeley did a study in 2018 on the topic of generosity. The study is called "The Science of Generosity" and in their study here are a few things they discovered…

1. Humans appear wired for generosity. (Genesis 1:27)
2. Generosity activates reward-related brain circuitry. (Proverbs 11:25)
3. Generous people report greater happiness and life satisfaction. (Acts 20:35)
4. Generosity strengthens trust, cooperation, and relationships. (Hebrews 13:16)

Notes:_____

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WHY ARE WE MADE TO BE GENEROUS?

We are made in God's image, and God is generous. He gave us His Son, and has held nothing back.

Ephesians 1:3-8 (NLT)

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

In Christ we receive spiritual blessing, adoption, grace, redemption, and forgiveness.

YOUR GENEROSITY GAME PLAN

Where is God inviting you to take your next step?

☐ Begin tithing faithfully.
☐ Prayerfully consider giving above and beyond the tithe.
☐ Create an intentional plan for meeting needs locally and globally.
☐ Ask God how to grow in generosity year after year.
☐ One specific step I will prayerfully take:

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GIVING FROM THE HEART

2 Corinthians 9:6-8; 10-11 (NIV)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 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. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion…

God doesn't give us more to just increase our standard of ***living***. He gives us more to increase our standard of ***giving***.

Overtime Podcast

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