Generous Living-Living Gifts Study Guide

Generosity comes when we see life as a gift and not as a grab. When we see through the lens of abundance and not scarcity. Our response is to make generosity “a habit not a happenstance” that structures our life in a way that allows us to give generously.

“…Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”

I Chronicles 29:14

1 Corinthians 4:7 "For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?"

Scarcity vs. Abundance

We are living in a time of great fear of the stranger, of the economy, of not getting what’s mine, the carnage of America as it has been called, but can it be that it all is in the way you see the world and today the invitation is to look through the eyes of faith and trust in a good and gracious God that has given us everything we need.

Gift vs. Grabbing

All these good gifts come from above and the Lord God made humanity stewards of his gifts. It all belongs to God, but is entrusted to us. The God who gave generously all that is very good entrusts us to share generously all that he has given.

Habit vs. Happenstance

5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.

Generosity is the virtue of giving good things to others freely and abundantly. It is a learned character trait that involves attitude and action entailing both the inclination and actual practice of giving liberally. It is not haphazard behavior but a basic orientation to life. What generosity gives can vary, money, time attention, aid, encouragement and more but it always intends to enhance the true wellbeing of the receiver. Like all virtues, generosity is in people’s genuine enlightened self-interest to learn and practice. Christian Smith-The Generosity Project

1) Look at your bank statement and your credit card statements. Specifically, where does most of your money go? Are those your priorities?

2) Are you content with what you have? If not, then why?

3) Is your giving regular, or sporadic? How would regular giving increase both the proportion and the joy of generosity?