

Living Life Fulfilled Series
"A Life of Generosity"
Text: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Alexandra Scott was the founder of a charitable organization that has literally raised millions of dollars for pediatric cancer research. She was very generous and was concerned about these children being diagnosed with cancer. She had a simple idea that pretty much spread throughout the country that has touched lives in the world.

When she was four years old she was diagnosed with a deadly cancer but she was so grateful for the care she had received that she decided to set up a lemonade stand to raise money for her local hospital in Connecticut. Alex's Lemonade Stand and her beautiful spirit soon attracted the attention of her entire community and the idea began to spread. Hundreds of other young cancer survivors followed her example and set up their own lemonade.

On August 1, 2004, Alexandra died because of cancer and she was only eight years old. The year Alex died her foundation raised 4 million dollars to fund a cure for cancer and the foundation still goes on today.

I believe that a life of generosity is a vital key to living life fulfilled.

Generosity is the nature of God. God is a very generous God. It is in His nature to be generous.

Now this nature has been given to us believers. When you made that decision of giving your life to the Lord Jesus, you have received a new nature.

2 Corinthians 5:16-18, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

The old nature is selfish, greedy and a taker and this is the old you and me. But thanks be to God that we have a new nature and that new nature is selfless, generous, and a giver and this is who we are.

It means that you now have the nature of God. And because you have the nature of God, it should be easy for a believer to be generous. God is generous by nature and therefore, His children should be generous.

Generosity is:

- God's will.

Matthew 20:1-15

Deuteronomy 15:10, "Give generously to him 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. ¹¹ There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land."

It is the will of God for us to be generous. Why? Because this world is full of people that are self-centered, selfish, greedy and a taker. We are different. The believers should be generous because this is God's will. He wants us to be different. That is why He said that we are the salt and the light of this world. He wants us to show the world that we are different...that we care...that we are generous.

Look at what the Bible says about generosity.

Psalms 37:21, "The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously."

God expects us to be generous.

- It protects us from self-destruction.
- It produces true joy.

The generosity of the Believers (Acts 2: 44-47)

"All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need."

Message Bible says, "exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw."

- It brings true blessings.

Story of Cornelius (Acts 10: 1-4)

The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God."

Psalms 37: 26, "They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed."

Psalms 112: 5, "Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely."

Proverbs 11: 25, "A generous man will prosper."

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

Here's the truth: When we are generous we become a river. Blessings goes in and blessings goes out.

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."

When we are selfish, greedy, and a taker, our life becomes dull, dry, and just no life flowing at all. I have met this people and they are unhappy, discontented, and not experiencing true joy that comes from giving.

Then I have met people that are generous...they are pleasant to be around. They are full of life. They are content. They are blessed. They are full of joy. They are living life fulfilled.

Now the question is, "Do you have to be rich to be generous?" The answer is, "Absolutely not!"

Look at what the believers in Macedonia did at the time of Apostle Paul.

Amplified Bible (AMP) 2 Corinthians 8: 1-3, "WE WANT to tell you further, brethren, about the grace (the favor and spiritual blessing) of God which has been evident in the churches of Macedonia [arousing in them the desire to give alms]; For in the midst of an ordeal of severe tribulation, their abundance of joy and their depth of poverty [together] have overflowed in wealth of lavish generosity on their part. For, as I can bear witness, [they gave] according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability; and [they did it] voluntarily,