

— SUPERNATURAL GENEROSITY —

God's Generosity

In the Beginning

God's amazing generosity to His creation is one narrative woven throughout Scripture. From creation to the fall to redemption and ultimately glorification, God's generous nature to His people should motivate us to follow His example. Because He is a generous God, we should be generous people.

We want Riverlife to be a church where the renewing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, moves us with genuine love and compassion to the needs of others, reflecting the generous nature of a generous God.

gen·er·os·i·ty (noun) - the quality of being kind, understanding, and not selfish : the quality of being generous; especially : willingness to give money and other valuable things to others

The generous nature of God is woven into our existence, whether we love Him or not (Colossians 1:16).

Why supernatural generosity? Because our world promotes a tight-fisted approach to all that you can accumulate, and it takes a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit to bring about a change in us to release the grip and then let God supernaturally bless whatever we give because it aligns with His character and His nature of being generous.

God the Father Gives us Jesus

The generosity of the Father is seen in Him sending the Son (John 3:16-18).

Two things become extremely important for us to understand about how God sending the Son marks His generosity in our hearts and lives (Romans 8:3-4).

- + Jesus fulfils all the righteous requirements of the law
- + Salvation belongs to God and God alone, and it is Christ alone who justifies by grace through faith

It was a costly thing to send Jesus, and God's generosity is seen in sending the Son to redeem those in glad rebellion against Him. We see Jesus coming and giving His life. God the Father sends the Son – it's an incredibly generous thing to do.

Jesus Lays Down His Life

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father. John 10:18 (NIV)

Just as Christ has been generous by laying His life down of His own will – we too become imitators of this humble laying down of our lives (Matthew 20:25–28).

- + Jesus gives His life as a ransom for many
- + We are being conformed into the image of the Son, what we're being conformed into is a greater and greater dying to self
- + The paradox is that greatness is found in humbling ourselves. Yet our culture is consumed with an exaltation of self.

The Holy Spirit Brings Gifts to the Children of God

If we have received salvation from Christ, we have been given the gift of eternal life from God. So, in a very fundamental way, we have already been shown great generosity. The least we can all do is use these gifts to help others in need (2 Corinthians 9:11).

The generosity of the Spirit is Himself as a gift to us.

God sends the Son. The Son lays down His life. The Holy Spirit brings gifts to the children of God for the common good. This generosity now is displayed through the work of the Spirit in each of us (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

This is how the Holy Spirit's gifts work. Holy Spirit is the gift, and He then works through us via a gifting given by Him. It's His supernatural work through us.

- + Holy Spirit redeems our intuitive gifts and brings them to be at work for the benefit of others - generosity.
- + The Holy Spirit brings new gifts.
- + We need each other. He has uniquely wired you and gifted you for the good of all of us.
- + The outworking of these gifts then also bears the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). The whole context of these fruits is the generosity of Holy Spirit working in us for the generous benefit of others.

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss what it looks like to be generous. Share examples of recent generosity that have been shown to you.

2. Discuss the significance and importance of both God the Father giving the Son and Jesus laying down His own life as a generous act.

3. How is it that God through the Holy Spirit has gifted you to be a generous blessing to others?

4. Is there an area it is particularly hard to be generous in? What is God challenging you about in this area?

5. How can you increase in being generous towards others and thereby reflect the nature of a generous God?

6. Think through God's generosity toward you, how He has blessed and been generous with you. Think specifically, how has God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit dealt generously with you?

7. Spend time in prayer asking for Holy Spirit to reveal to you the incredible generous nature of God and give thanks for His generosity asking for your heart to be aligned with His generous nature.