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GENEROSITY

Rev. Richard C. Whitcomb pastor.whitcomb@agapehouseghana.org Proverbs 11:24-25 "Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."

THE TRUTH ABOUT GENEROSITY THAT ATTRACTS GOD'S FAVOR

1. Generosity is an <u>OUTLOOK</u>.

Proverbs 11:24 "Give freely. Don't be stingy."

It's not how much you give, but how you give that matters.

Generosity is an attitude, not an amount.

Luke 21:1-4 "While Jesus was in the Temple, He watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins. 'I tell you the truth,' Jesus said, 'this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has."" 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 "Remember this - a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others."

God gives generously to those who give generously to Him!

Your generosity is not measured by how much you give, but by how much you keep.

2. Generosity is an <u>OPPORTUNITY</u>.

Proverbs 11:25 "The generous will prosper; those who **refresh others will themselves be refreshed**."

2 Corinthians 9:10-12 "God will increase what you have, so you can give even more to those in need. You will be blessed **in every way**, and you will be able to keep on being generous. Then many people will thank God when we deliver your gift. What you are doing is **much more than a service that supplies God's people with what they need**. It is something that will make many others thank God. The way in which you have proved yourselves by this service of giving will bring honor and praise to God."

God has called us to do more than make a living.

He has called us to make a difference in life.

Mark 4:31-32 "The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, the tiniest seed you can sow. But after that seed is planted, it grows into the largest plant in the garden." Proverbs 11:30 "The seeds of good deeds become a tree of life."

You can count the number of seeds in one orange.

But only God can count the number of oranges in one seed.

3. Generosity OPENS God's Hand of FAVOR.

Proverbs 11: 25 "The generous will prosper."

God's Guarantees for the Generous:

- Acts 20:35 "The Lord Jesus Himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive."
- Proverbs 28:27 "Those who give to the poor will lack nothing."
- Proverbs 19:17 "If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord - and He will repay you!"
- Proverbs 11:24 "The world of the generous gets larger and larger."
- Luke 6:38 "Give to others, and you will receive. You will be given much. It will be poured into your hands - more than you can hold. You will be given so

much that it will spill into your lap. The way you give to others is the way God will give to you."

• 1 Timothy 6:18-19 "Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life."

Memory Verse: Proverbs 11: 25 "The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."

