



## Week 12 | Becoming Like Jesus: Generosity Exercises

### Exercise 1 - Considering Scripture

*The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."*

*He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. - 2 Corinthians 9:6-11*

Prayerfully read through this passage a few times and consider:

**What was this passage saying to the Corinthian readers in Paul's day?** (look at surrounding verses and chapters. Think: who were they giving to? What was the end goal? What was their relationship with Paul?)

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**What does this passage say to believers today?**

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**How might this passage be calling me personally to action?**

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## **Exercise 2 - Examining our Treasure**

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* - Matthew 6:21

We often think that our money will go where our hearts are. While this is often true, notice Jesus' words in Matthew 6:21--our hearts actually go where our money is. Think of it as a constant cycle: we love what we spend money on, and we spend money on what we love.

Today, take a little time to look over your bank statement or spending history for the last week or two (don't trust your memory--it's amazing the things we forget!) Add up totals for broad categories like: non-negotiables (mortgage/rent, insurance, utilities), entertainment, giving/gifts, eating out, shopping (clothes, home decor, gadgets, etc).

When looking over these totals, prayerfully consider:



- **Do any of these totals surprise you?**
- **In what ways have you been a good steward and cheerfully generous?**
- **How do these totals compare with what you would like them to be?**
- **In what ways do you see that your heart is following your money in these areas?**

Pray and thank Jesus for the ways that He has enabled you to cheerfully spend your money in a way that honors Him. Ask Him to continue to show you ways that you can be a good manager of what He has entrusted you.

### **Exercise 3 - Giving Cheerfully**

You have considered what Scripture says about generosity and giving, and you have considered how your heart follows your finances. Today's exercise is simply to put what you have learned into practice.

Think of something that you would like your heart tied up in; think of a Gospel mission that you would like to partner with. Then, simply give to it.

Ask the Holy Spirit to impress on your heart an amount, or item, to give. At times, the Spirit leads us to give sacrificially and at others He may remind us that He is able to do a lot with a small amount. Whatever the amount or item, ask Him to enable you to give it cheerfully. As you give, pray:

*Giver of everything I have, I ask that You would give me wisdom to know what to give, when to give, and to whom to give – and change my attitude I pray, towards giving, - knowing that all things come from You and it is from the over-abundance of the bountiful supply that You have graciously poured into my lap that I am giving back to You. Give me I pray, a giving heart, a generous heart – a grateful heart. Develop in me a heart that is filled with thanks and praise to You, for all that You have done for me. I ask this in Jesus name, Amen.\**

\*adapted from knowingjesus.com

