

- 1 ☐ **Ten Biblical principles about money and wealth**
- 2 ☐ **Principle #7. Cultivate a generous heart and live sacrificially**
- 3 ☐ **The Blessings Fund**
 - Part 1. Cultivate a generous heart
 - Key Bible passages on generosity
 - Generous giving vs. faithful giving
 - The truly generous heart
 - 12 keys for living a more generous life
 - Part 2. The Blessings Fund – a tool for spontaneous generosity
 - What is a “Blessings Fund”
 - The Macedonian example
 - Ten blessings of generosity
 - The Blessings Fund in practice – real-life stories
 - How to determine your “Maximum Generosity”
 - A secret to joyful giving
- 4 ☐ **The Holy Bible is our source for understanding God’s generous and sacrificial heart**
- 5 ☐ **The underlying theme of this seminar**

The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith. 1 Timothy 1:5 (NLT)
- 6 ☐ **Part I. Cultivate a generous heart**
- 7 ☐ **Key Bible passages**
 - So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given. As the Scriptures say, “They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.” 2 Corinthians 9:8-9
 - We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Romans 12:6-8
- 8 ☐ **God’s generosity is a model for us**
 - And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19
 - Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” Luke 6:38
 - 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. 2 Cor 9:8
- 9 ☐ **God’s generosity is a model for us**
 - So that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. Matt 5:45
 - Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.” Acts 14:17
 - The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. Psalm 145:9
- 10 ☐ **Generous giving vs faithful giving**
 - Generous giving may differ from regular giving. In this seminar, we make the contrast between faithful giving and generous giving:
 - Regular, faithful giving is a step of obedience and a sign of our devotion to God. It does not depend so much on our attitude as it does our commitment. God wants us to be a faithful giver.
 - Generosity, on the other hand, voluntarily goes above and beyond our regular commitments. It is a cheerful, discretionary choice—sometimes sacrificially—to invest our resources in the lives of others and for the kingdom of God.
 - Both types of giving, faithful and generous, are most pleasing to God when done humbly, willingly and joyfully from hearts of love and thanksgiving

11 ☐ The truly generous heart

The Greek word for the spiritual gift of giving is *Metadidomi*. It simply means “to impart” or “to give.” However, this word is accompanied in Romans 12:8 by another descriptive word: *Haplotes*. This word tells us much more about the kind of giving that is associated with this gift. The word *Haplotes* means “sincerely, generously and without pretense or hypocrisy.” The Holy Spirit imparts this gift to some in the church to meet the various needs of the church and its ministries, missionaries, or of people who do not have the means to provide fully for themselves.

12 ☐ The truly generous heart (cont'd)

Those with the gift of “*Haplotes*” love to share with others the overflow of blessings God has given them. They are typically very hospitable and will seek out ways and opportunities to help others. They are also excellent stewards and will often adjust their lifestyles in order to give more to the spread of the Gospel and the care of the needy. They are grateful when someone shares a need with them, and are always joyful when they can meet that need. See Romans 12:8, 13, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:6-15; Acts 4:32-37, Galatians 4:15, Philipians 4:10-18. Source: spiritualgiftstest.com

13 ☐ “Haplotes” generosity

14 ☐ 12 Keys to living a more generous life Kluth, etal

1. Study the Scriptures on finances and generosity
2. Realize that God himself has a generous heart
3. Thank God for what he has generously provided in your lives
4. Submit yourselves and all you are and have to the Lord
5. Keep eternity and God’s kingdom in mind
6. Believe that God can multiply any gift, no matter how small, to produce miraculous results for the kingdom

15 ☐ 12 Keys (cont'd)

7. Cultivate a “haplotes” generous heart through prayer and practice
8. Practice a lifestyle that leads to generosity
9. Let your generosity be the outward expression of our love, gratitude, and devotion to God
10. Remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive
11. Remember it is not the amount we give but the attitude with which we give
12. Create a tool or system, such as a “Blessings Fund”, from your margin so that you will be ready to be spontaneously generous as needs arise

16 ☐ Questions for discussion

Share your experience with regard to:

- People you know with a heart of generosity
- Success or failure in living a non-consumptive lifestyle in order to create margin, enabling you to have something to give?
- Participating in benevolence opportunities in order to experience the joy of generosity?
- Creating systems or tools to be able to respond spontaneously, cheerfully and generously when opportunities arise?

17 ☐ A secret system to increase your Spontaneous Generosity

18 ☐ The secret is to create a tool for giving spontaneously, generously, and cheerfully

19 ☐ Part 2. The “Blessings Fund”

20 ☐ The “Blessings Fund”

21 ☐ The “Blessings Fund”

22 ☐ The “Blessings Fund”

23 ☐ The “Blessings Fund”

24 ☐ The “Blessings Fund”

25 ☐ The Macedonian example

26 ☐ Ten blessings of generosity

27 ☐ Ten blessings of generosity

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. As the Scriptures say, “They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.

28 ☐ Ten blessings (cont'd)

“For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

29 ☐ Ten blessings (cont'd)

•As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words! ² Corinthians 9:7-15 (NLT)

•So show them your love, and prove to all the churches that our boasting about you is justified. ² Cor 8:24 (NLT)

•“Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. ² Luke 12:33 (NLT)

30 ☐ The ten blessings

31 ☐ 1. Needs of others will be met

So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. ² Corinthians 9:12 (NLT)

32 ☐ 2. They will give thanks to God, *with joy*

So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. ² Corinthians 9:12 (NLT)

33 ☐ 3. God will enrich you and produce great generosity in you

For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. ² Corinthians 9:10 (NLT)

34 ☐ 4. The ones who are blessed will give God glory

35 ☐ 5. You will visibly demonstrate to others your obedience to God

For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. ² Corinthians 9:13 (NLT)

36 ☐ 6. They will experience your love for them

So show them your love, and prove to all the churches that our boasting about you is justified. ² Corinthians 8:24 (NLT)

37 ☐ 7. You will be the object of their prayers

38 ☐ 8. They will express their love for you to God

And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to YOU. 2 Corinthians 9:14 (NLT)

39 ☐ 9. God's grace will overflow in your life

And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to YOU. 2 Corinthians 9:14 (NLT)

40 ☐ 10. You will build treasure in heaven

"Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Luke 12:33

41 ☐ Review of 10 blessings

1. The needs of the poor Christians will be met 9:12
2. They will joyfully give thanks to God 9:12
3. God will enrich you and produce great generosity in you 9:10
4. They will give God glory 9:13
5. You will demonstrate to others the grace of God in your life 9:13
6. They will experience your love for them 8:24
7. They will pray for you 9:14
8. They will express their love for you to God 9:14
9. God's grace will overflow in your life 9:14
10. You will build treasure in heaven (Luke 12:33)

42 ☐ Levels of generosity

- Each occasion to contribute to your blessings fund may be different
 - Minimum contribution
 - Percentage
 - Or sometimes...

MAXIMUM GENEROSITY

▪

43 ☐ How to determine your
"Maximum Generosity"

1. Consider a small amount and ask yourself: "Can I give this amount cheerfully and willingly?"
 - a) If no, stop. You have reached your maximum generosity
 - b) If yes, increment the amount; can I give this cheerfully?
2. Repeat this process until you discover your maximum generosity.
3. Add that amount to your Blessings Fund

44 ☐ Hints for success (cont'd)

- Where will your Blessings Fund be located?
- Who will decide on what distributions will be made
- How will your gift be distributed?
- When will replenishments to your Blessings Fund occur
- Remain sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading
- Maintain the joy of giving—cheerfulness and willingness
- Teach this concept to others
- Write your plan down and review it occasionally

▪

45 ☐ Odisha's story

46 ☐ Odisha's story

"Now, our main and house churches are fearfully saving food grain and affordable funds on a daily basis and humbly using it, while helping neighbors for critical needs.

Now, public gesture towards such Christian love in the locality seems grateful and in some places Church has touched many Peace Seeking Hearts, thereby after knowing such selfless Church attitude, the poor men at receiving end, do repent for their hatred mindset and turn to Church services and accept Jesus openly in many places". FIRE Staff report, August, 2021

47 ☐ Look for opportunities to do good

- Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Hebrews 13:1-3
- There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and for three days entertained us. They honored us in many ways and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed. Acts 28:10

48 ☐ Blessings Funds that blessed others

49 ☐ Bhutan Bible

50 ☐ Pat's lesson

Pat recalled that, when she was a little girl, found \$2 in a drawer. She had been looking for money to buy some candy. When she ran to her mother and said there was money to buy candy, her mother said "No, there is no money". "But mother, said the girl, there is \$2 in the drawer!". "Honey, that's God's money. I set it aside from money I earned. That no longer belongs to us"

51 ☐ A secret to joyful giving

"Since the money in our Blessings Fund is no longer ours but God's, we can respond to needs and opportunities spontaneously, enthusiastically, and joyfully"

Prov 13:22, Prov 28:27

52 ☐ A final thought from Brian Kluth

"If we don't set aside resources and time to give, every request for help will make us feel tight-fisted, pressured, and sometimes even angry. But when we intentionally set aside finances, time, and things for the Lord, we will actually be excited and will prayerfully look for God-given opportunities to give, share, and serve. This "set-aside" secret will truly change our lives and allow us to live open-handed in a tight-fisted world." (Kluth, 7 Keys, day 18)

53 ☐ Ten Biblical principles about money and wealth