

Daring Faith: Daring to be Generous with Rick Warren Saddleback Church Generosity and God

There are 7000 references to generosity in the Bible – generosity is love in Action. 2152 to giving. God is a giver and all comes from him, He wants us to be more like him

1. Generosity honours God – all gifts from God. Giving to needy honours God
2. Generosity draws me closer to God. Where my money goes shows what is important to me. Your heart will be where your treasure is. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,” (**Matthew 6:21**).
3. Generosity makes me more like Jesus. We have been saved because of his generosity. As you give you become more like Jesus. The godly love to give. Purity is best demonstrated by generosity. God wants us to learn generosity
4. Generosity is the cure for materialism. Everytime you give, you break the grip of materialism. You cannot serve God and money. Very easy to get caught up in materialism

1 Timothy 6. 17-19

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

5. Generosity demonstrates my faith. How much do I trust God?

Malachi 3.10

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.

2 Corinthians 9.13

Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others,

6. Generosity shows what my heart is like. God uses money to help you test your heart

Luke 16.11 If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?

7. Generosity brings God blessing. Think of Scrooge at Christmas how he changed and became happy

Proverbs 22.9

Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

Deuteronomy 15.10

Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.

8. Generosity increases my happiness. At Christmas as a child all my joy came from what I got, now in maturity stopped being about what I get but what pleasure I give to others.

Acts 20.35

In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."