

Giving motivated by love...



Living generously requires abundant love; love for God, love for neighbour, love for God's work, love for family. Love that flows over into generous, open-handed giving of time, money, hospitality, talents and our very selves.

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:3)

How do I know if I'm giving generously?

In all aspects of our giving – time, money, hospitality, talents, Christians are called to give generously.

How do I know if I'm giving generously?

- ✓ When I set my giving in the context of my income, the percentage I'm giving away is a realistic amount.
- ✓ When I see that my giving in all its forms has an impact on my lifestyle. I can identify an element of sacrifice to my giving.
- ✓ When my giving is a priority from what I receive each week or each month, rather than what's left over.
- ✓ When if what I give away was given back to me, it would make a real difference to me.

"Dearest lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost." Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556)



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Giving for Life



Living Generously

Giving in response to need...



Generous giving leads us to respond spontaneously to the needs we encounter.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' (from Matthew 25:31-46)

But there is more to giving than just responding to need...

Giving in response to the needs of your church...



Generous giving requires us to give regularly in a committed way to our church and the causes God has placed on our hearts.

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, (from 1 Corinthians 16:2 NIV)

But there is more to giving even than giving regularly to our church or other charities...

Giving in response to God's love...



Generous giving responds to a generous God. Psalm 145 speaks of God's extravagant generosity....

He showers compassion on all his creation. (v10, NLT), "Generous to a fault, you lavish your favour on all creatures" (v16 The Message) "They celebrate your abundant goodness" (v7 NIV)

As we acknowledge God's abundant blessing and provision, we give – first of all we give thanks, but then we are called to pass on God's blessing to others.