



**What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?**

**Key Takeaways:**

1. Generosity is not something extracted from us through guilt, manipulation, or social pressure. It is a willing, planned, and eager response to what God has already given.
2. The Greek word behind "cheerful" in the phrase "God loves a cheerful giver" is *hilaros*, from which we get the word *hilarious*. True generosity carries an almost giddy delight because it flows from gratitude, not obligation.
3. The theological foundation of generosity is grace. Because Christ, who was rich in every eternal sense, became poor for our sake so that we might become rich, our giving is an echo of his giving.
4. Generosity is not limited to finances. Time, talent, and presence are all expressions of open-handed living.
5. The ultimate destination of generosity is not a met need or a balanced budget. It overflows into worship and thanksgiving to God, meaning God receives the glory.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Think of a time when someone was unexpectedly generous toward you. How did it make you feel, and what did it cause you to think about that person?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. Paul identifies three things generosity is not: manipulated giving, reluctant giving, and giving under compulsion. Which of these three do you find most difficult to avoid, and why?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. The sermon described Jesus as one who "had everything and gave himself to a people who could give him nothing." In your own words, how does understanding that kind of grace change the way you think about giving?
4. The word translated "cheerful" in verse 8 is the Greek word *hilaros*. What does it say about the nature of generosity that God connects it with that kind of enthusiastic, almost joyful delight? Does that description match your experience of giving? Why or why not?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 8:14. The passage says that what we have is not simply ours but is available for the needs of others. How does that reframe the way you think about your income, your time, or your abilities?

6. Read 2 Corinthians 9:11-12. Paul says that generosity does not just meet needs but overflows into many expressions of thanksgiving to God. How does knowing that your giving becomes an act of worship change how you approach it?
7. Pastor Frank shared a long list of ways generosity moved through this church community and touched people locally and around the world. Were you surprised by any of those stories? Which one stayed with you most, and why?
8. David, in 1 Chronicles 29, looked at an overwhelming pile of resources and said, "Who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you." When have you had a moment like that, where something caused you to stop and recognize that what you have is not ultimately yours?
9. Generosity is not just what leaves your bank account but also what happens when you give your time, your skills, and your presence. In what area of your life do you feel most called to open your hands right now?
10. Many of us have a complicated relationship with the topic of generosity because of how it has been misused. How has your past experience shaped the way you respond when generosity is talked about in a church setting? Is there any healing or reframing that needs to happen in how you think about it?
11. Who are we? We are blood-bought children of the most high God. How does your identity in Christ shape what you believe you are capable of when it comes to living generously?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Take a few minutes this week to honestly assess your giving, whether of money, time, or talent. Ask yourself: Is it planned and intentional, or reactive and reluctant? What would it look like to be more deliberate?
2. Spend time in prayer reflecting on 2 Corinthians 8:9. Write down three to five specific ways Christ's generosity toward you has changed your life. Let that list inform how you think about your own generosity this week.
3. Identify one concrete act of generosity you can do this week that you might normally hold back from. It does not have to be financial. It could be an hour of your time, a skill you have, or a resource you have been holding onto.

4. When you do give this week, whether in an offering, a volunteer hour, or a kind act, pause and say a simple prayer that echoes David's words: "Yours, Lord." Practice returning the moment to God rather than taking personal satisfaction in it.
5. Pick one of the generosity stories from the sermon and share it with someone outside your small group this week. Let the story do what Paul said generosity does: overflow into thanksgiving to God.