

This week, Pastor Sharon presents the ninth installment in the ten part series "Power Verses for Transformation". Sharon points out that Philippians teaches that "God will meet ALL of your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus". This is a promise that God has made to you as a believer. But, Sharon also points out, it is a Promise based on a Premise. A premise is "A proposition upon which an argument is based or from which a conclusion is drawn." The promise is based on the premise that you will be a generous giver yourself. Give to others as God gives to you. God is as generous with us as we are generous to others.

Generosity is of great value. Generosity encourages others. When you are instrumental in meeting their needs, it builds them up. When you give to a ministry, you become a partner with that ministry. Giving to another believer or to a ministry is like giving to Christ Himself. The church is the body of Christ on earth and is here to do His will. Another believer has Christ living within him ("it is Christ in you the hope of glory - Colossians 1:27). In each case, you are ministering directly to God by your generosity.

In our society, money usually comes to you in the form of wages. Wages are received in return for work you have performed for your employer. Wages, then, represent hours of your life. Not everyone can be a full-time church worker or evangelist, but you can invest in the work that God is doing through these other people. As you give funds to God's work or help provide another believer's need, you are investing what you have exchanged those hours of your lives for in the workplace! God also has promised that there is an eternal reward that He holds for you and that comes as a direct result of your faithful giving. You cannot take your money with you to heaven, but you can send treasure on ahead. God values your generosity as a sacrifice of giving. All you have belongs to him anyway. He has purposed that you learn to be like Him and give generously out of His provision. He promises to be personally involved in your life and to be the source you can count on to meet the needs you have in your life. He does not promise to reward laziness, nor does he promise to give you everything you may want, but He does promise to meet all your NEEDS.

Ask from God with expectation to receive - Give to others with freedom. Give to others with freedom - Ask from God with expectation. These are two sides to the same coin. Where will you express your generosity and let God provide for you next?