

# Cultivating a Heart of Generosity

## I. Do not rely on the **wrong** type of **power**.

*A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'" "All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said. When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." **Luke 18:18-25***

*"Better to be a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose ways are perverse." **Proverbs 28:6***

## II. We are **created** to be **givers**.

*"Worship in its biblical sense, is not just about music. Giving from our money and possessions is a major part of worship-recognizing and proclaiming God as the true owner of all material things."*

*"Just think of how such an understanding of giving would affect our churches and our sermons. Instead of giving to help the church, or to get material reward only, what if we truly believed that we are to give because God created us to give, that it protects us spiritual poverty, and that our souls are actually changed and improved in the process?"*

*Wesley K. Willmer (God & Your Stuff)*

*"Be imitators of God, therefore as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." **Eph 5:1-2***

## III. We are **blessed**.

*"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."  
**1 Timothy 6:17-19***

*"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty (we) might become rich." **2 Corinthians 8:9***

## **Suggested Reading**

God and Your Stuff by Wesley K. Willmer

Secrets of the Generous Life by Gordon MacDonald