



THRIVE 2021 – Thriving in Generosity 24th January 2021 Deborah Holman

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

1. Read [Philippians 4:15-20](#)
2. What does the word 'generosity' mean to you?
3. How do you display generosity?
4. The Hebrew word for generous is נדיב = naw deeb. Which means generous and noble. The prime root word is na dab = to present spontaneously.

Engage:

5. Read [Exodus 35:5-10](#)
 - In verse 5 we see the Hebrew word naw deeb, translated as generous, is also translated as willing and applied to the heart = willing hearted.
6. In verse 10, God connects wisdom of the heart to what?
7. In Exodus 35:5-10, willingness and wisdom are key concepts connected with building what?
8. So far, we understand that generosity includes the following:
 - A readiness to give
 - A willingness to give
 - More than is strictly necessary or expected
 - Larger or more plentiful than is usual or necessary
 - It must be voluntary/spontaneity
9. Read [2 Corinthians 13:14](#)
 - The word communion is koinonia in the Greek and it means: communion, fellowship, participation. But the root word is: koinos, koy-no-nos, which means an associate, a partnership.
10. What is Paul saying in the above verse?

Framework:

11. Read [Luke 5:4-7](#) (This is an example of how partnership and associate working co-exist)
12. During His earthly ministry Jesus and the Holy Spirit worked in partnership all the time:
 - Luke 1:5 *Conceived of the Holy Spirit*
 - Luke 1:35 *Empowered by the Holy Spirit*

- Matt 4:1 *Led by the Holy Spirit*
 - Matt 12:28 *Cast out demons in the power of the Holy Spirit*
 - Acts 10:38 *Healed by the power of the Holy Spirit*
 - Romans 8: 11 *Resurrected by the power of the Holy Spirit*
 - Ephesians 1:19 *Seated at the right hand of God by the power of the Holy Spirit*
13. Read [Philippians 4:14](#)
- ‘Communicate’ = This brings another aspect of its meaning of koinonia, that is, to take responsibility for someone.
14. Reread [Philippians 4:17](#): When we partner with other people, be it in the church or in the world, we take greater responsibility for the world and for other people. And with true partnership (koinonia) comes responsibility. Therefore, a gift that will bring credit to our account is a gift that has been given to take responsibility for something or someone.
15. What determines your motive for giving?
16. What is your focus when you give?
- Paul says in verse 18 that the gifts are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.
 - The most frequent Hebrew word translated as offering is min-khaw, and is derived from the root verb which means “to deposit in a place”, especially for safekeeping or as a pledge. From this perspective an offering is something that is given as a pledge or guarantee or an advance.
17. What it is then that makes our offering a sweet-smelling savour to the Lord?
18. How does God respond?

Why do you think Abel’s offering was more acceptable than Cain’s? Well perhaps Abel understood the responsibility behind the offering that God had given him and this was his pledge.

That is why it is never about the amount we give – it is about the motive.

And so, what does God do? He says, ‘I will meet all your needs according to my riches in glory in Christ Jesus’.

What God has to give us far supersedes what we can give Him – that’s why He has to press it down and shake it together so we can contain it.

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19. **There is a kingdom key here:** Giving from a willing heart to meet the needs of others and seeing this as our responsibility, will release to us all that we need.

20. **Earthly wealth is not for storing up, it is for meeting needs.** It is in koinonia, partnering with the Holy Spirit, being associates with each other and accepting our responsibility in giving that we receive; this is how the kingdom works.

21. When we give in this way, we are depositing something into our account, giving it to God for safekeeping with the expectation of something to follow. What are we expecting to follow?
22. Read [Ephesians 1:13-14](#)
23. What triggers the release of all that we need?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, my desire throughout this pandemic is that the church will arise more authentically. That we will really live what we believe! That in the chaos that exists all around us, we will see the kingdom of God advancing. I know that has to begin with me, so I ask that you please strengthen and guide me so that I may help to accomplish this. In Jesus Name Amen.

