



## The Overflow of Grace

### Week 4 | Generosity

#### | KEY THOUGHTS

- **Only Jesus can truly change hearts and transform lives.**
- Our generosity is shaped by our priorities.
- For a Christ-follower, how I personally see generosity is less important than **understanding how God sees generosity**, and for that to play out in my life.
- **God is the ultimate giver.**
- **Jesus's generosity (His death on the cross on our behalf) reveals genuine love;** in light of that, Christians should also show love through generosity.
- Our motivation in giving is the gospel of grace; any other motive is self-serving.
- We're called to give whenever we can; **helping those in need is a practical expression of the gospel.**
- Sometimes when we can give but don't want to, it's because **our heart resists**; our heart argues against generosity using many reasons.
- When we're in Christ, our sick hearts begin the process of becoming renewed, but they're not yet perfected; there's still "bumpy terrain" there to trip us up.
- Our inborn sense of self-preservation is a good thing, but it can grow out of control into a desire for personal comfort and control of our lives.
- When we persuade our hearts to reflect God's generosity, we get to...
  - Serve and encourage others;
  - See God glorified;
  - Learn to resist the deceitfulness of our hearts;
  - Witness some of the marvelous things God does for us.

## | SCRIPTURE

<sup>16</sup> By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup> But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. <sup>19</sup> By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; <sup>20</sup> for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

**1 John 3:16-20 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> The heart is deceitful above all things,  
and desperately sick;  
who can understand it?

**Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)**

## | PRACTICAL

- How can I persuade my heart to reflect God's generosity?
  - Look to the gospel and understand what real love is as demonstrated by Christ;
  - Understand your new identity in Christ; you used to trust only yourself, but now you trust in God, who knows everything;
  - Consider that God may have brought you to this point to expose you to yourself.
- When your heart tells you an opportunity for generosity is too much for you, remember that Scriptures tell us that the man Jesus wrestled with that same thing.
  - His moment was in Gethsemane;
  - His prayer was, "Not my will, but Yours be done."
  - The result was a supernatural generosity;
  - The same Spirit that enabled His generosity is also at work in you.

## | REFLECT

- If your heart convinces you to resist generosity, it's because you haven't experienced the love of Christ. This might mean:
  - You haven't crossed the line of faith to accept Jesus as your Forgiver and Leader;
  - You *are* in the faith, but this is an area in which God's calling you up to exercise your faith.
  - In either case, your heart's resistance gives you an opportunity to step away from empty religion and trust the Lord in a real and practical way.
- If you can, do; love that *acts* (goes beyond mere words) is true love.
- The vision of the Findlay E-Free family of churches for reaching the lost in our community is big, but God is infinitely bigger! He calls us to partner together with Him for the gospel, trusting His leadership and provision.

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