

The Secret Blessing of Generosity

Read Genesis 13

In Genesis 13, Lot chose selfishly and moved his family to the choicest land—near the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, whose inhabitants sinned greatly. Abram, Lot's uncle, generously let him go; and for his generosity, God blessed Abram and allowed him to settle his family in a safe area.

Later, God used Abram to rescue Lot from the evil cities before He destroyed them. Abram learned the blessings of being generous and following God's plan.

We often think of giving as being limited to money or things. We need to give our time or talents to the Lord as well. The abilities the Lord has given you can be offered as a special gift.

On occasion, the most important thing we can give to help others is our time. Giving with a cheerful heart comes when we give our time, money or talents as if we were giving them directly to the Lord.

Though others may not receive these thankfully, God will add His blessing to our willingness to give.

A missionary learned this when he agreed to minister to the congregation of a poor church. Not

expecting
a significant offering, he nevertheless was excited to meet
and talk
with the people on the front porch after the service.

As he was leaving for the night, a woman approached him
and handed him two \$1 bills. "This is all I have but I want to
give it
to you so you can tell others about the love of Jesus," she
said. The
missionary carries the two bills to this day to remind him of
her
perfect example of sacrificial giving out of a heart of love.

We never should give with the intention of gaining
something in return from the Lord. We should give only as an
act of
love. The study note for 2 Corinthians 9:11 from the *Fire
Bible: Global Edition* puts it this way:

"In order for us to express true
generosity outwardly, our hearts must become rich in true love
and
compassion for others. We should always pray and ask God to
give us
this kind of heart for others. Giving of ourselves and our
possessions
results in (1) supplying the needs of those who are lacking in
some
way, (2) praise and thanksgiving to God (v. 12) and (3) love
from those
who receive our help (v. 14)."

This month consider your attitude toward giving. How can you
give of your (1) time; (2) talents; (3) money/resources?

Hide the Word in Your Heart memory verse:

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to

give, not
reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful
giver" (2
Cor. 9:7).

Adapted from *Principles 4Life* (Life Publishers International),
available free of charge at .