

231114 'A ROUGH GUIDE TO GENEROSITY PART 2'.

LIFE APPLICATION

INTRODUCTION: This study follows Bob Caudell's excellent sermon on Sunday entitled 'a rough guide to generosity part 2'.

DISCOVERY

- What are the key motivating arguments that Paul uses in this passage to persuade the Corinthian church to be generous?
- Which ones work for you and which do not? Explain your reasons

UNDERSTANDING

- In the first 5 verses of chapter 9, it could be argued that Paul is being a bit manipulative by suggesting that they wouldn't want a visiting Macedonian to be surprised by the stinginess of their gift when the collection party came to take it to Jerusalem.
- How would you defend Paul's argument in this instance?
- What is the difference between good Christian encouragement and exhortation as compared to outright manipulation or coercion?
- What needs to be our attitude in both the giving and receiving of exhortation and encouragement? Can you think of examples in the Christian life where you have been challenged in a good way?
- In verses 6 – 11, the act of giving is likened to the act of sowing.
- What are the key faith principles that you need to believe in order to risk sowing your seed as a farmer?
- What are the key faith principles that you need to believe in order to risk giving as a Christian?
- The argument that if we sow generously we will reap generously could lead us to a prosperity gospel view on giving (give £1000 and God will give you £3000 back). By what route do we avoid this sort of argument?
- Is there the danger that we go to the other extreme and suggest the return is only spiritual? How does verse 10-11 help us? What is the ultimate goal of our continuing wealth (vs 11)
- Bob reminded us that gratitude alone was sufficient reason to give (vs 12). What should we be thankful to God for? Are you feeling thankful? How can we overcome our ingratitude?

APPLICATION

On Sunday there was very much a sense of waiting on the Spirit, asking him to fill us and that the overflow of this infilling in our lives would naturally and spontaneously lead to increased acts of love and generosity.

Pray for one another to know an increased measure of the Spirit's presence in our lives.

Pray that this would transform our lives to increasing acts of love and generosity

You may also want to reflect on specific acts of love you can show this Christmas. Eg contributions to our Christmas hamper appeal, taking a sticker and buying a specific present for a child or young person, helping out with packing or delivery, buying someone a ticket for Beauty & the Beast, giving a lift, spending time with someone who is too often alone, taking someone out to lunch ... the list is endless. Where is the Spirit prompting you now that he is inside you? God bless as you meet.