

Giving motivated by love...



Living generously requires abundant love; love for God, love for neighbour, love for God's work, love for family. Love that flows over into generous, open-handed giving of time, money, hospitality, talents and our very selves.

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:3)

How do I know if I'm giving generously?

In all aspects of our giving – time, money, hospitality, talents, Christians are called to give generously.

How do I know if I'm giving generously?

- ✓ When I set my giving in the context of my income, the percentage I'm giving away is a realistic amount.
- ✓ When I see that my giving in all its forms has an impact on my lifestyle. I can identify an element of sacrifice to my giving.
- ✓ When my giving is a priority from what I receive each week or each month, rather than what's left over.
- ✓ When if what I give away was given back to me, it would make a real difference to me.

“Dearest lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost.” Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)



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Giving for Life

Living Generously



Giving in response to need...



Giving in response to the needs of your church...



Giving in response to God's love...



Generous giving leads us to respond spontaneously to the needs we encounter.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' (from Matthew 25:31-46)

But there is more to giving than just responding to need...

Generous giving requires us to give regularly in a committed way to our church and the causes God has placed on our hearts.

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, (from 1 Corinthians 16:2 NIV)

But there is more to giving even than giving regularly to our church or other charities...

Generous giving responds to a generous God. Psalm 145 speaks of God's extravagant generosity....

He showers compassion on all his creation. (v10, NLT), "Generous to a fault, you lavish your favour on all creatures" (v16 The Message) "They celebrate your abundant goodness" (v7 NIV)

As we acknowledge God's abundant blessing and provision, we give – first of all we give thanks, but then we are called to pass on God's blessing to others.