**PP Generous Hearts and Open Hands**

**Part 6-The *effect* of generosity (2 Corinthians 9:8-14) Pew Bible p. 968 2/17-18/2024**

Reading of the life of George Muller has been one of the greatest factors in growing my faith

**PP** (Pic) Muller started an orphanage in Bristol, England in 1849

Muller never once asked for money from people but he constantly asked His heavenly Father to

provide, and God did just that, often in the most critical moments

In his lifetime, he received the equivalent of 180 million dollars, not once asking people for it

With it he rescued and gave hope to 10,024 orphans in his lifetime

His purpose was to demonstrate to an unbelieving public that **PP** *God is real and can be trusted*

Of the hundreds of stories of Muller’s ministry that are worthy to be shared, here is one:

*“The children are dressed and ready for school. But there is no food for them to eat,”* the housemother of the orphanage informed George Mueller. George asked her to take the 300 children into the dining room and have them sit at the tables. He thanked God for the food and waited. George knew God would provide food for the children as he always did. Within minutes, a baker knocked on the door. *“Mr. Mueller,”* he said, *“last night I could not sleep. Somehow I knew that you would need bread this morning. I got up and baked three batches for you. I will bring it in.”*  Soon, there was another knock at the door. It was the milkman. His cart had broken down in front of the orphanage. The milk would spoil by the time the wheel was fixed. He asked George if he could use some free milk. George smiled as the milkman brought in ten large cans of milk. It was just enough for the 300 thirsty children."

Some insisted in Muller’s day that he had the spiritual gift of faith, and that the ordinary

Christian is not able to trust God like this

Muller explained that while all faith is a gift of God, the faith he had was the grace of

God which is available to all believers because it rests, not on the divine enablement of

the Holy Spirit, but on the promises of God’s Word

God promises to give us all we need to do all that He will ask us to do!

This kind of faith belonged to another hero of mine, **PP** (Pic) Hudson Taylor, who began China

Inland Missions

Someone asked him how the ministry was doing and he replied, **PP** *“The financial balance for*

*the entire China Inland Mission yesterday was twenty-five cents. Twenty-five cents and all*

*the promises of God.”*

This kind of faith can spring out of our hearts generosity so great that the world will be amazed

**PP** Let’s stand and read our passage in **2 Corinthians 9:8-15**

**PP** **1-Generous Christians display God to the world**

The Apostle Paul is encouraging the Corinthian church to complete what they started, which was

a financial collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem

He tells them, **PP *“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all***

***sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”* 8**

***‘all grace abound’*** means God promises to give you all you need in order to be generous

**PP** ***“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ***

***Jesus.”*** **Philippians 4:19**

Generosity is built on faith and that is where the church at Corinth was struggling

They were no different than us: *What if I don’t have enough for what I need?; What if an*

*emergency comes up?; What if I lose my job? What if the economy crashes?*

Surely it is wise to plan and prepare, but never wise to close our hands possessively refusing to

be generous

Paul assures us God will meet all our needs, His grace will abound to us His cheerful givers, and

in doing so, we can ***‘abound in every good work’* 9:8**

Paul makes it clear that exactly this ***‘good work’*** that we are about in actually is, in verse 9

**PP *“As it is written, ‘He has distributed freely, He has given to the poor; His righteousness***

***endures forever.’”* 9:9**

This is a quote from **Psalm 112:9**, but we need to understand that **PP** the word ***‘righteousness’***

means *justice*

True poverty is a form of injustice, and the heart of God beats to display His justice to the poor

But how does He do that?

He does it through His children to whom He has distributed freely, making grace abound,

supplying with monies and possessions

Christian, God gives generously to you, that through you He can display His justice by helping

the poor

As we give God’s monies to the kingdom of God, to the poor and needy, we are showing the

righteousness of God to this corrupt, broken world

Christian, we must be courageous to scrutinize ourselves: **PP** *How much of your monies and*

*possessions are being given to those who are poor?*

**PP *“Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.”***

**Proverbs 14:21**

**PP *“Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.”***

**Proverbs 28:27**

Christian, instead of feeling guilty that there are poor people in the world while you have much,

give generously by faith believing that God promises to supply abundantly for you so that

you can bring His justice to the poor and broken, and this is something we can grow in

**PP 2-Generous Christians will never lack what they need**

**PP** “***He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed***

***for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in***

***every way to be generous in every way”* 9:10-11**

*God will bless richly those who will give generously so they will be able to give even more*

Sow liberally, sow continuously, sow generously, and you will reap much so that you can

reinvest it into God’s kingdom

**PP** *God’s people give God’s money for God’s work!*

Christian, be free from the ownership mentality, and give generously, investing in God’s work,

here, and other places

Even the seeds we sow, the possessions we give generously were given to us by God, not

ourselves, and not ultimately by other people

If you get a raise, ask God if He has plans for that money before you make your own

If you make more sales this month, then ask God why He gave you that increase

The fear is that if we give generously we will not have enough, but God will continually provide

the seed we need as we wisely share, and will even multiply it so we can give more!

Fear holds us back, faith propels us upward to trust God as we give generously!

**PP *“For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also***

***overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.”* 9:12**

**PP 3-Generous Christians have been changed by the gospel**

**PP *“By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that***

***comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your***

***contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you,***

***because of the surpassing grace of God upon you.”* 9:13-14**

Paul encourages the church at Corinth that their faithful generosity would move the poor saints

in Jerusalem to glorify God

Hasn’t the generosity of others brought out of your hearts praise to God?

Denise and I determined that she would stay home with our young children, and my salary was

low enough that we had to live by faith, and of course, an unexpected financial bump hit

I went out to the mailbox one day to find that someone, I still don’t know who, had put 8 $100

bills inside a folded piece of paper and mailed it to us

God used his children, whoever it was, to meet a need that only He and us two knew about

It ignited a worship service right there in our kitchen as we praised God for His care and love

What moves us to give so generously?: It is ***the confession of the gospel of Jesus Christ***

It is the power of God to change us from the inside out, giving us the desire to be generous

**PP** (Pic of CT Studd) I want to tell you about a third hero of mine that has greatly enriched my

faith in God, Charles Thomas Studd, who went by CT

He was born in 1860, the son of a wealthy British businessman, who became what many have

said, the greatest cricket player to have ever played the game

Despite his athletic fame and a vast inheritance he gave it all up when he got saved in order to

serve His Lord and Savior, first in China, then India, and finally Africa

He famously said, **PP** *“If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great*

*for me to make for Him.”* C.T. Studd

Please hear this very clearly, it is of utmost importance!

We will not become a generous giver until the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ gives us the

want to to do what you ought to

**PP** We will become generous when ***“the surpassing grace of God”*** works in us powerfully

spilling out of our hearts through our open hands

This is the power that will make us the generous people of God: **PP *“Thanks be to God for his***

***inexpressible gift!”* 2 Corinthians 9:15**

The basis of our generosity is our generously giving God, and none of His gifts is greater than

the gift of His Son Jesus Christ

God gave what was most precious to Him, His Son, in order to save us and give us eternal life

What do you possess that you are not willing to give over to God if He asks for it?

What if He asked you to take your savings and give it away?

He did with CT Studd, and God did with British **PP** (Pic) John Wesley who lived on 28 pounds a

year, equivalent then to $5100 a year today

His income increased to $29,400 a year, yet he continued to live on $5100 annually

He taught that if he had more than $2,450 dollars to his name at his death, he was a robber

He taught: **PP** *“Of the three rules which are laid down ... you may find many that observe the*

*first rule, namely, 'Gain all you can.' You may find a few that observe the second, 'Save*

*all you can.' But, how many have you found that observe the third rule, 'Give all you*

*can'?*

**PP** (Pic) Martin Luther was changed by the gospel of Jesus to be generous: **PP** *“I have held*

*many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in*

*God’s hands, that I still possess.”* Martin Luther

What if God asked you to downsize your home to free up monies to give to His kingdom?

What if He asked you to live on less so you can give more to the poor and needy?

What if He asked you to increase your giving to a ministry that is feeding starving children?

Is the gospel of Jesus Christ increasing a desire to give in your heart and opening your hand to

the poor?

**PP** If so, your generosity will display the justice of God to a broken, watching world

Amen!!

Pray