

# Thankfulness: Offering

*A generous person will prosper;  
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

*Proverbs 11:25*

- **Have you ever witnessed an act of significant generosity?**
- **Why does God command us to be Generous?**

It is good for us.

It makes a difference.

God blesses generosity.

It also generates thankfulness. Generosity changes us from thinking that we need to give God our money, to recognising that God lets us keep so much of his money. It changes us from a famine mentality, to a feast mentality. It encourages to celebrate what we have, rather than focussing on what we do not.

## **Read 1 Timothy 6:17–19**

*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

- **How is giving good for us?**

Giving is an act of worship. When we give we

- \* acknowledge that everything we have comes from God
- \* we serve God with our money rather than serving money as our god
- \* we trust God to provide for all our needs
- \* expect that God will bless us in far greater ways

- **How is giving an investment?**

But it also is a matter of investment. When we give we

- \* accept responsibility to share with others (those who teach and lead, those in need)
- \* trust that God's purposes for our resources are greater than our own
- \* participate in God's mission in our community
- \* are working together to make our God-given vision a reality

\* hoping that our example will inspire others to give also

- **Do you find generosity easy?**
- **Why / why not?**
- **How do you feel you are doing with generosity and taking control of your finances?**

God calls us to put him to the test with generosity:

*“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.*

*“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’*

*“In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.*

> *Malachi 3:8–10*

- **What is the promise that he asks us to put to the test?**
- **Is he asking you to test him on this?**
- **What do you need to do to respond to that invitation?**
- **How can we help / encourage / pray for you in that?**

We've changed the way we are doing offering as a church. We are asking people to bring a coin as a token of their electronic gifts. Please remember to do this. As you do:

Reflect on God's generosity to you.

Recognise his call to trust him as God.

Acknowledge that this is God and he has big plans that he calls you to invest in.

Above all give with an understanding that God promises that we can trust him to bless us.