

WE ARE GENEROUS

- It is one of our 9 Core Values that establish the culture of our church.
- We are a culture that thinks “others” instead of “us.” We have an environment that does not brow beat, manipulate, or give undue pressure for money. Rather, we teach and expect those in covenant with us to give according to the biblical mandate of tithes, offerings, and alms. Overall, we practice generosity with our time, talent, and treasure. ~1 Timothy 6:17, 18
- LEGACY SUNDAY: December 8th
- **II Corinthians 9:6 – 8 (NLT)** *Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” [c] 8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.*
- Generosity is one of the hallmarks of a transformed heart. When we've truly had an encounter with Jesus, we CAN'T stay self-focused.
- **Galatians 5:22, 23 (NAB)** *In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, GENEROSITY, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*
- **Romans 12:2 NLT** - *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by CHANGING THE WAY YOU THINK. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

WEEK #2 – FIRSTPLACE GOD

Proverbs 3:9, 10 (NKJV) – *HONOR the Lord with your POSSESSIONS, And, with the FIRSTFRUITS of all your increase; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.*

- **QUOTE:** *The only way to grow to a place of giving God our Best is to grow to a place of giving Him our Trust.*

Three Takeaways from Prov 3:9,10

1. Our Motive Must Be HONOR
2. Our Offering Must Be FIRST & BEST
3. Our Expectation Must Be HIGH

Our Motive Must Be HONOR

- *Honor (Heb. Kabad) – to be heavy or be weighty. In other words, to not treat like a “light weight.”*
- **QUOTE:** *God actually cares more about the heart behind what we do than the action itself.*
- **II Chronicles 25:2 (NLT)** – *Amaziah did what was pleasing in the LORD 's sight, but not wholeheartedly.*
- **II Chronicles 25:2 (NCV)** – *Amaziah did what the Lord said was right, but he did not really want to obey him.*
- Amaziah did all the things on the outside that satisfied God's request, but without any HONOR.
- **Malachi 1:6 – 8 (GNT)** *The Lord Almighty says to the priests, "Children HONOR their parents, and servants HONOR their masters. I am your father - why don't you HONOR me? I am your master - why don't you respect me? You despise me, and yet you ask, "How have we despised you?" 7 This is how - by offering worthless food on my altar. Then you ask, "How have we failed to respect you?" I will tell you - by showing contempt for my altar. 8 When you bring a blind or sick or lame animal to sacrifice to me, DO YOU THINK THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT? Try giving an animal like that to the governor! Would he be pleased with you or grant you any favors?*

- How we bring our gift to God matters...but also WHAT we bring to God matters!!

Our Offering Must Be FIRST and BEST

- **Exodus 13:1,2 (NCV)** – *Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 "Give every firstborn male to me. Every firstborn male among the Israelites BELONGS TO ME, whether human or animal."*
- Give God the first lamb. Don't wait until you have ten to choose from. The first blesses the rest.
- **Proverbs 11:24 NKJV** - *There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds MORE THAN IS RIGHT, but it leads to poverty.*
- **QUOTE:** *God's way to increase is counterintuitive and countercultural!!*
- **Genesis 4:3 – 5 (GNT)** *After some time Cain brought SOME of his harvest and gave it as an offering to the Lord. 4 Then Abel brought the **FIRST lamb** born to one of his sheep, killed it, and gave the **BEST parts** of it as an offering. The Lord was PLEASED with Abel and his offering, 5 but he rejected Cain and his offering. Cain became furious, and he scowled in anger.*
- Long before the Law was ever written and tithing became mandated for Israel, God's heart has always expected for us to bring Him the **FIRST** and the **BEST**.
- **Genesis 22:2 (NLT)** – *Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you.*

Our Expectation Must Be HIGH

- **Proverbs 3:10 (NLT)** – *Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.*
- When we learn to live this way, we must also learn to EXPECT God's provision.
- **QUOTE:** *Stop selfishly expecting God to 'meet your need.' Instead, expect Him to shower you with enough increase so that you are able to help meet someone else's need.*