

## **WE ARE GENEROUS**

- We have 9 Core Values that guide how we operate.

### ***We Love God & We Love People.***

Love must be first vertical then horizontal. ~*Matthew 22:37-39*

### ***We Are Authentic.***

We operate without pretense or any need to impress. We are accountable to one another out of genuine relationship. We exhibit no man-made hierarchies of importance or undue emphasis on titles; but each individual serving the vision God has apportioned to our church family. ~*James 5:16 MSG*

### ***We Are Dependent.***

We totally depend on the power of God. We refuse to rely upon man-made tricks, schemes, or gimmicks. We are creative in our approach to all things and willing to think outside the box. In all things, we acknowledge that God's power alone can transform a life. Therefore, we rely solely on the power of prayer, the leading of the Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit, and the anointing of God. We stand in faith for healing, provision, and protection that comes only from the power of Christ. ~ *I Corinthians 2:2-5*

### ***We Are Excellent.***

We are committed to excellence in all things. Thereby, requiring a fierce commitment to planning, effective communication, best-effort execution, continuous evaluation of all aspects of ministry, and a commitment to always get better. ~*Daniel 6:3*

### ***We Are Grateful.***

We have an environment that chooses to see the best in our circumstances and in others. We choose to give thanks to God for all that He has done, rather than mourn the things we do not have. We practice gratitude toward God and one another, continually acknowledging how blessed we are to have God and our family of friends. ~*I Thessalonians 5:18*

### ***We Are Joyful.***

Joyfulness is an attitude that chooses to be infectiously positive and to see the best in every situation. ~*James 1:2-5*

### ***We Are Relevant.***

We purpose to remain true to the pure message of Christ, but extremely flexible in our methods to deliver that message to a rapidly changing culture. We resist the temptation to fall in love with "our way." We know that our God is the great I AM. He is always ready to use us to meet the needs of the present generation with His eternal message. ~ *I Corinthians 9:19-23*

### ***We Are One Team.***

We are one in name, aim, vision, and purpose. ~*I Corinthians 12:14-31 MSG*

### ***We Are Generous.***

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. ~*I Timothy 6:17, 18*

**I Timothy 6:17, 18 (NIV)** – *Command those who are RICH in this present world 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. <sup>18</sup> Command them to DO GOOD, to be rich in good deeds, and TO BE GENEROUS AND WILLING TO SHARE.

## Week #1 – Live to Give

- **Acts 20: 35 (GNT)** *I have shown you in all things that by working hard in this way we must help the weak, remembering the words that the Lord Jesus himself said, "There is **MORE HAPPINESS in giving than in receiving.**"*
- 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.
- Once we come into covenant with Jesus, there are three arenas of God's generosity through us: Tithes (foundation - **obedience**), Offerings (walls - **gratitude**), Alms (outfits the house - **generosity**).
- **II Corinthians 8:1 – 7 (MSG)** *Now, friends, I want to report on the surprising and GENEROUS ways in which God is working in the churches in Macedonia province. <sup>2</sup> Fierce troubles came down on the people of those churches, pushing them to the very limit. The trial exposed their true colors: They were incredibly happy, though desperately poor. The pressure triggered something totally unexpected: AN OUTPOURING OF PURE AND GENEROUS GIFTS. <sup>3</sup> I was there and saw it for myself. They gave offerings of whatever they could - far more than they could afford! – <sup>4</sup> pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians. <sup>5</sup> This was totally spontaneous, entirely their own idea, and caught us completely off guard. What explains it was that they had **first given themselves unreservedly to God and to us.** The other giving simply flowed out of the purposes of God working in their lives. <sup>6</sup> That's what prompted us to ask Titus to bring the relief offering to your attention, so that what was so well begun could be finished up. <sup>7</sup> You do so well in so many things - you trust God, you're articulate, you're insightful, you're passionate, you love us - now, do your best in this, too.*
- When we've given OURSELVES to God, there's a **grace** that flows from heaven to enable us to be **generous** at whatever level God has equipped us.

What keeps us from surrendering to God's grace of generosity when He's moving on our hearts?

- Fear (FEAR of running out is the biggest hindrance to yielding to the **grace** of generosity)
- Bad Experiences
- Not Understanding the Purpose for Our Prosperity
- Selfishness

## The Cure?

### **1. Let Faith Arise in Our Hearts (Cure for Fear)**

- **II Corinthians 9:10 (GNT)** – *And God, who supplies **seed for the sower AND bread to eat**, will also supply you with **ALL THE SEED YOU NEED** and will make it grow and produce a rich harvest from your **GENEROSITY**.*
- We must believe that God will provide us with ALL THE SEED WE NEED for sowing. But we must also learn to recognize when it's seed (for sowing) and not food (for consumption).
- **QUOTE:** *Oftentimes, we eat (wear, spend, enjoy) what God has given us for the purpose of sowing.*
- **QUOTE:** *The only way to overcome the Fear of Running Out is to finally trust God with our little until He turns it into a lot.*

### **2. Present All our Giving to the Lord (Cure for Bad Experiences)**

- **Hebrews 7:8 (NKJV)** *HERE mortal men receive tithes, but THERE he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.*
  - Focus has to always be on Jesus. We don't ever give TO a church...we give THROUGH a church.
- 3. See Our Resources as Impact Seed (Cure for Not Understanding Purpose of Prosperity)**
- **Ephesians 4:28 (GNT)** *If you used to rob, you must stop robbing and start working, **in order to earn an honest living for yourself AND to be able to help the poor.***
  - **QUOTE:** *When we come to Christ, we cease working for a LIVING and begin working for a GIVING!!*
  - **II Corinthians 9:11 (GNT)** *He will always make you **RICH ENOUGH TO BE GENEROUS** at all times, so that **many will thank God** for your gifts which they receive from us.*
  - Our generosity causes thanksgiving to God. Our giving makes an IMPACT!!
- 4. Live for an Audience of ONE with a Congregation of OTHERS (Cure for Selfishness)**
- **Philippians 2:17 (BBE)** *And even if I am offered like a drink offering, **GIVING MYSELF** for the cause and work of your faith, I am glad and have joy with you all:*
  - This revelation of RADICAL GENEROSITY, will transform a family, change a work environment, overhaul the climate in a school, or set a church on a course of explosive growth, because generosity eliminates selfishness.