

Grace Guide



JULY 7-13

**“A Tale of Two Believers”
Integrity in Generosity**

MONDAY
7/7

DEUTERONOMY 15:1-11

God commands the Israelites to release debts every seven years and to care for the poor with open hands and generous hearts. This instruction reflects God's deep concern for justice, compassion, and community well-being. Spirit-led generosity doesn't wait for convenience. True, Spirit-led hearts respond in obedience and love. When we give with open hands, trusting that God will provide, we reflect God's character and participate in his provision for others. Self-serving giving, on the other hand, asks, "What's in it for me?" Spirit-led generosity asks, "What does love require of me?"

1. Would it even be possible in our world today to have a "year of releasing debts"? What impact do you think that would have on our culture?
2. Has there been a time when you felt the Spirit of God lead you in releasing a debt – financial, a grievance or other hurt, or something else?

TUESDAY
7/8

MATTHEW 6:1-4

Jesus warns against practicing righteousness to be seen by others, particularly in acts of giving. Spirit-led generosity is hidden, humble, and done for the glory of God alone. Self-serving giving is noisy – it draws attention, seeks recognition, and ultimately honors the giver rather than God; it elevates the giver and demeans the recipient. Jesus reminds us that our Father sees what is done in secret and rewards what is done in faith. When we give quietly and sincerely, we express our trust in the unseen approval of God rather than the fleeting applause of people.

1. Why do you think Jesus emphasizes giving “in secret”?
2. What are some subtle ways pride can creep into our acts of generosity?

WEDNESDAY
7/9

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

The Apostle Paul encourages believers to give generously and cheerfully, assuring them (us!) that God supplies all they need and multiplies their resources for good works. Spirit-led generosity flows from a heart transformed by grace – it’s not about pressure or guilt, but about joyful participation in God’s mission. As we give, we not only meet needs but also cause others to give thanks to God. Our generosity becomes an act of worship that reflects the overflowing generosity of God toward us in Jesus.

1. What does it mean to sow “generously” in your own life, and what are you sowing into?
2. How could viewing generosity as an act of worship change the way you give?

THURSDAY

7/10

1 JOHN 3:11-18

John reminds us that love is not just a feeling or idea, not just an emotion. Love must be demonstrated through action, especially in how we care for one another. Spirit-led generosity begins with genuine love for others. If we see someone in need and have the means to help but do nothing, how can God's love be in us? John urges believers to move beyond words and into tangible acts of care. This kind of generosity doesn't seek credit or control but it flows from the Holy Spirit's work in a heart shaped by the sacrificial love of Jesus.

1. What has kept you from moving from compassion to concrete action when you have seen a need?
2. How do you discern whether your generosity is led by love or influenced by guilt or pride?

FRIDAY

7/11

PSALM 50

God speaks to his people in this psalm, making it clear that God doesn't *need* their sacrifices. Rather, what God desires is gratitude, trust, and obedience. Spirit-led generosity is rooted in a relationship with God, not in ritual or appearance. When we offer our gifts with thankful hearts and call on God in dependence, we are acting in true dependence on God. But giving for the sake of obligation or giving that is spiritual performance is hollow. True generosity flows from a life that acknowledges God as the source of all things and seeks to listen to the call of the Holy Spirit so that all that we are and do is to glorify God.

1. How are gratitude and generosity related to one another in your life? How does your gratitude influence your generosity?
2. When have you felt like giving was a burden or a duty rather than an act of joyful worship?

SATURDAY/
SUNDAY
7/12-13

ACTS 4:32-5:11

Three or four times in the book of Acts we read that the early church shared everything in common, and that they acted with great grace and generosity. Barnabas gave freely, led by the Holy Spirit and without pretense. In contrast, Ananias and Sapphira pretended to give all while secretly holding back, seeking to appear more generous than they were. Their story is a sobering reminder that God values truth, integrity, and heart-level devotion over outward appearances. They were under no obligation to give any of what they had, but they pretended to be more generous than they were, lying to the disciples, to the other believers and, ultimately, to God. Spirit-led generosity is honest, humble, and rooted in a desire to serve, not impress. God sees beyond our actions to our motives.

1. While God probably won't smite anyone who pretends to be more generous than they really are, what lesson can you draw from the story of Ananias and Sapphira for your own life?
2. Have you been tempted to show yourself more generous than you really are? Why or why not?

“With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them.”

(Acts 4:33-34)

SERMON NOTES
