

NORTHERN HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Kent Tisdell, Associate Pastor

“The Heart of Generosity

March 20, 2011

THE KEY TO THE BLESSED LIFE IS A HEART OF GENEROSITY.

Proverbs 11:24–25 (NAS) — 24 There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, And there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want. 25 The generous man will be prosperous, And he who waters will himself be watered.

2 Corinthians 9:6–8, 11 (NAS) — ⁶ Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.** ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; ¹¹ you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

Most Christians are impoverished because they lack GENEROSITY.

Proverbs 11:24–25 (NAS) — ²⁴ There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, And there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want. ²⁵ The generous man will be prosperous, And he who waters will himself be watered.

FIRST OF TWO BENEFITS

The *first* benefit of a cheerful giver is the LOVE we receive from God.

FIRST OF TWO BENEFITS

That leads to a *second* and immediate benefit, GENEROSITY from God.

THREE MINDSETS

- **THE BAG: WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH.**
Haggai 1:6 (NAS) “You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes.”
- **THE BASKET: MORE THAN ENOUGH. GOD IS AN ABUNDANT GOD AND WE CAN GIVE FREELY.**
Deuteronomy 28:4–6 (NAS) — ⁴ “Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. ⁵ “Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ⁶ “Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.
- **THE BARN: GOD IS INFINITELY MORE THAN ENOUGH.**
Deuteronomy 8:8 (NAS) — ⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey;

HOW MUCH CAN GOD BLESS YOU WITH?

Luke 16:10–11 (NAS) — ¹⁰ “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. ¹¹ “Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?”

Proverbs 3:9–10 (NAS) — ⁹ Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; ¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Malachi 3:10 (NAS) “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.