



Live and Give Generously

OPEN IT

1. What do you think of when you hear the word “generous”? Can you think of an example of someone that you have seen live and give generously?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Philippians 4:14-23

2. How do the Philippians partner with Paul?
3. What does Paul seek?
4. How does Paul describe the gifts delivered to him by Epaphroditus?
5. What is Paul confident that God will supply?

Day 2

TODAY'S THEME: WHY DO WE GIVE?

Read Philippians 4:14-20

You probably have heard that one of the reasons some people don't go to church is they believe that all the church wants is their money. Some people may have had bad experiences with a church that wrongfully demanded money from them in order to be a part of that church. I have even heard of one church who asked you to report your yearly income and then they would send you a "bill" of what they expected you to give to the church each year, and if you didn't give that amount, then you were not allowed to be a part of that church.

Paul says in verse 17 that he is not seeking their gift, meaning that he is not hungry for their money. Sure, Paul had legitimate financial and physical needs, but as he writes verse 19, "*And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus,*" he is speaking from experience that he knows that God has been, and will continue to be, faithful to meet his needs, whether it's from the Philippians or some other way.

Paul wants to tell the Philippians that he is thankful and excited about the giving of the saints at Philippi because their giving shows spiritual growth and maturity, and this is really an act of worship to God. Verse 18 says that they are "*a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.*" When they give, they are not storing up treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal, but they are storing up for themselves treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19-20).

The Philippians were by no means wealthy, but as a Macedonian church they were actually poor. They gave generously out of their poverty so that the gospel could be advanced and Jesus be glorified (2 Corinthians 8:1-4). And they didn't just give generously one time, but they gave sacrificially and generously again and again.

As a student, you may not have a lot of money, but you can give sacrificially and generously with whatever you receive as an act of worship towards God! Remember, everything we have comes from God, and He modeled sacrifice and generosity toward us when He gave us His one and only son Jesus, who gave up His life for you!

6. If you were asked the question, "Why should you give money to the Lord?" what would you say?

7. How do you determine how much and to where you should give your money?

8. What are some practical ways you can give sacrificially and generously to the Lord?

Day 3

TODAY'S THEME: PARTNERING WITH MISSIONARIES

Read Philippians 4:21-23

It's easy to gloss over the opening and concluding greetings in a letter like Philippians, but remember, all Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16). Paul is imprisoned in Rome, and he is sending greetings from Roman Christians, including the household of Caesar (the ruling Roman ruler of the day) to Christians in Philippi.

Chances are these believers in Rome have never met the believers in Philippi this side of heaven, but they are now all brothers and sisters in Christ. The Roman believers had special feelings toward their Philippian brothers and sisters in Christ, because it was their sacrificial financial partnership with Paul that helped give these Romans the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

It's easy for us to get caught up in our own lives and the people who live immediately around us. But God calls us to have a heart for people all over the world. He wants us to spread the gospel to the uttermost parts of the world (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8)! Not all of us can personally go as missionaries to the uttermost parts of the world to share the gospel, but we can partner with missionaries both financially and prayerfully to reach lost people with the good news of Jesus Christ just like the Philippians partnered with Paul to have him reach those in Rome with the gospel.

9. Who are some of the missionaries you know about and in what countries do they serve?

10. What are some practical ways we can partner with our missionaries?