**BETTER TOGETHER** in 2022

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**Overflow**

**Overflowing with Generosity**



Who has enough time, energy, or money?

We allocate **finite** resources based on our priorities.

How is that going for the world? For us? For you?

Chasing after success in the world is fruitless.

*Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.*

*Ecclesiastes 2:11*

“I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.” – Ghandi

*As a dog returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.*

*Proverbs 26:11*

Believers are called to allocate their finite resources based on **God’s** priorities.

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.  And all who believed were together and had all things in common.  And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God….*

*Acts 2:42-47a*

They **devoted** themselves to prayer, worship, and teachings of Jesus.

All believers were **together** and were of one heart and mind.

They voluntarily sold their **property** and **homes** and sharing the proceeds to meet the needs of others.

Overflowing **generosity** brings an **overflowing** life.

*And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4:19*

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

*Matthew 6:25-33*

*He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.*

*2 Corinthians 9:10-11*

Generosity begins in our **hearts**.

*The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*

*2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

If you are not generous when you have **little**, you will not be generous when you have **plenty**.

Grow a heart of generosity by:

**Remembering** that all that we are and all we have is **from** God.

*The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.*

*Psalm 24:1*

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father…*

*James 1:17*

*He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food*

*2 Corinthians 9:10*

If we devoted every moment of our life to Him – we could not give Him anything that was not already His.

It is like a small child going to its father and saying, 'Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.' It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction.

C.S. Lewis

**Remembering** that love and generosity are **inseparable**.

“You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving” – Amy Carmichael (Christian Missionary in India)

*…God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God in him. 1 John 4:16*

We have never known a world void of God’s generosity.

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 1:26

God started the pay it forward movement.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply…

Genesis 1:28a

**Stop** chasing after the **world**

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*Romans 12:2*

*Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble…..you sent me help for my needs once and again…I am well supplied having received the gifts you sent.*

*Philippians 4:12,16,18*

*No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*

*Matthew 6:24*

Overflowing generosity brings a **blessing**:

*remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

*Acts 20:35b*

A blessing for you and your life

*Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will be himself be watered.*

*Proverbs 11:25*

*A blessing for others*

Praising God and having **favor with all the people**. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who being saved.

Acts 2:47

A blessing for all eternity

*And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.*

*Daniel 12:3*