

## A GRATEFUL HEART LEADS TO A GENEROUS LIFE



### PRECEPT

#### LUKE 6:38

<sup>38</sup> Give to others, and God will give to you. Not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.”

#### MATTHEW 5:48

<sup>48</sup> Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.

### PROMISE

A thankful heart leads to a generous heart. Generosity comes in many forms, it's not limited to money. We can be generous by sharing our time, talent, and skills, extending a helping hand, lending listening ears, and sharing our resources. We can observe that many people are not generous because they are not grateful. The moment that we cultivate a grateful heart, generosity will overflow in our lives.

The following illustration displays how an act of thankfulness led a person to be giving to others, and how it created a chain reaction. Eileen Taylor was in the drive-through line at a Heav'nly Donuts. She was thankful for the kind gesture of a stranger paying for her coffee the day before. Eileen was out of work and short on cash. However, out of thankfulness from the act of kindness the day before, she decided to pay for the family's donuts in the car behind her. As a result of her actions, many more people were thankful and became givers themselves. In fact, her act of generosity led to a chain reaction of fifty-five customers paying for the person behind them in line; this lasted two-and-a-half hours. She said in an interview, *“Jobless or not, I won't hesitate to pay for a fellow customer again. It is worth it.”*

Unless we cultivate a grateful heart, we can never be generous in life. People are struggling to share their time, energy, and resources because they are not thankful for what they have. The truth is, you are more blessed than you think. The moment you realize that you have many things to be thankful for then you will be generous. Knowing that we have a generous God leads us to a grateful heart and generous life. Psalm 100:5 says, *“For God is sheer beauty, all-generous in love, loyal always and ever.”* He is good, He is loyal, He is faithful and loving always and forever! Psalm 145:16 also says, *“Generous to a fault, You lavish your favour on all creatures.”* After all the things we have done to Him, He remains faithful and willing to forgive and accept us. He is generous in expressing His love to those who come to Him. Paul also encourages us to be generous. 1 Timothy 6:18 says, *“Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, willing to share with others.”* As Jesus' followers, we are called to live a generous life. First, let us invest wisely. Jesus commands us in Luke 6:38, *“Give to others, and God will give to you. Not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.”* We are also to invest in relationships. Matthew 5:48 tells us, *“Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”* Let us share our time, talents, and treasures to others. *Be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.* (Matthew 5:16)

As we cultivate thankful hearts for God's goodness, provision, and presence, generosity that impacts the world will flow naturally from our lives.

### PRACTICE

**1. Generous Life.** What does it mean to give with a willing and generous heart?

**2. Grateful Heart.** Knowing that a thankful heart leads to a giving heart, how can you incorporate this into your life? Into the lives of others?

### PRAYER

#### I. Families

- Pray that all families will be in harmony, centred in Christ, and loving one another at all times.

#### II. Provision

- Pray that our Jehovah Jireh will provide for the needs of His church & His people.

#### III. Direction

- Pray for God's direction for our church, our ministries, and our events for the rest of the year.

#### IV. Gospel

- Pray that our church will commit to sharing His Word and walking in His truth.

#### V. Missionaries

- Pray for provision & protection for all missionaries as they continue to share the Gospel in the world.

#### VI. God's Will

- Let us all pray, “Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.” (Ephesians 5:27)

#### VII. Evangelism

- Pray that we will all take part in reaching the lost and sharing the Gospel to others.