Part 1 – The Generous Life
How do you start living a generous life?

- **Generosity is a muscle that needs to be developed.**

Why is generosity so important?

- **Jesus said you're more blessed when you're generous.**

Acts 20:35
You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

- **Greed is a form of idolatry.**

Colossians 3:5
Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

- **Greed turns what we have into what we worship.**

- **Every day, we choose whether to grow in greed or grow in generosity.**

1 Corinthians 6:9-10
Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

- **How do you start living a generous life?**

1 Corinthians 16:1-4
Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do.

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.

2 Corinthians 8:1-2

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

- **Don't wait for your circumstances to change before you start practicing generosity.**

- **Severe trial + overflowing joy + extreme poverty = rich generosity.**

2 Corinthians 8:3-4
For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.

Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

- **Start thinking of generosity as a privilege, not a burden.**

Proverbs 11:25
A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

2 Corinthians 8:5
And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

- **Start by giving yourself to God.**

- **God gave us life.**
- **God gave us His son Jesus.**
- **Jesus gave His life for us.**
- **Jesus gives us eternal life by grace through faith in Him.**

Matthew 16:24-25
Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

2 Corinthians 8:6-7
So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part.

But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

- **See that you excel in the grace of giving.**

- **Good intentions become generosity when we follow through.**