

Generosity

Carl Thomas

Becoming Like Jesus

I am practicing my faith

[Acts 2:40-42](#) (NASB95)

40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!”

41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

They studied the apostles teaching when they were bored. They had Christian fellowship when they could fit it in. They prayed when they needed something and got lunch together every now and then. They never really saw God do anything miraculous and they were fine with that. They sometimes talked about generosity but never actually were generous. Two out of five Sundays they came to church. They didn't invite people into their homes and rarely talked about Jesus outside of church. In fact, they didn't really look different than their coworkers and every now and then, someone was randomly saved.

We want to live a purposeful Christianity

[Acts 2:](#) (34) For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales (35) and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

When you live in the Spirit you start to operate by the economy of heaven.

Every time Jesus talked about money it wasn't about money. It was about trust.

[Matthew 6:19-21](#) "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, (20) "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, (21) for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

[1 Corinthians 2:14](#) But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are gained spiritually.

Tithe is the first 10% of your increase.

Offering is what you have decided to give above your tithe toward the work of the Gospel.

Alms are money or things you have purchased that you give toward those in need.

[Acts 10:5](#) "Now dispatch some men to Joppa and send for a man named Simon, who is also called Peter;

[Acts 10:44](#) While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.

[2 Corinthians 9:10-11](#) Now 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; (11) you will be **enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.**

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Your generosity is seen by God and will bring an increase in your life.

Every act of obedience to Jesus is sowing into your future.

[Acts 4:34-37](#) For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales (35) and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as

any had need. (36) Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), (37) and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

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Possible questions:

Are you faithful to God with your finances?

When has someone's generosity impacted your life?

What greater things could we do for the Kingdom if we were more generous?