



Session Three:

Step Up: Our Generosity

Matthew 5:14–16 (NLT) *“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*

What do you have that you wouldn't give? What are you doing that your unwilling to quit or do something else?

The most basic principle in Christian life is that God comes first. First in time- first in talent- first in treasure. **Matthew 6:33 (NLT)** *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.*

Step Up! What have you convinced yourself that you can't do?

Some of you are OK to Step up with your time. You decided you could.

Some of you are OK to Step up and give your talent. You see yourself as able.

Some of you can't see yourself Stepping up in your treasure. You don't see yourself as able.

When we Step Up our generosity, we say People Matter.

You Can and We Can- **Philippians 4:13 (NLT)** *For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*

Play video: Facing the Giants

No Fear- **2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)** *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.*

What We Know:

God Has Saved Us- John 3:16 (NLT) *“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

Called Us 2 Timothy 1:9 (NLT) *For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.*

Empowered Us- 2 Peter 1:3 (NLT) *By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.*

Step Up to Generosity:

1. **Recognize- Genesis 26:1–3 (KJV)** *And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. ²And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: ³Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father;*

Luke 19:41–42 (NLT) *But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. ⁴²“How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes.*

Recognition- Deuteronomy 8:18 (KJV) *But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.*

Psalm 35:27 (KJV) *Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: Yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, **Which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.***

3 John 2 (KJV) *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*

2. **Respond- Genesis 26:12 (KJV)** *Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.*

Willing and Obedient- Deuteronomy 28:1–2 (NLT) *“If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the*

LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the world. ² You will experience all these blessings if you obey the LORD your God:

Luke 12:16–21 (NLT) *Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. ¹⁷ He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. ¹⁹ And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!”’ ²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’ ²¹ “**Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.**”*

1 Kings 17:10 (KJV) *So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.*

- 3. Reward- Genesis 26:13–14 (KJV)** *And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: ¹⁴ For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and **the Philistines envied him.***

Luke 6:38 (NLT) *Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”*

There will always be a harvest- Psalm 126:5–6 (NLT) *Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. ⁶ They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest.*

Close:

Rain is Here- Ecclesiastes 11:4–6 (NLT) *Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest. ⁵ Just as you cannot understand the path of the wind or the mystery of a tiny baby growing in its mother’s womb, so you cannot understand the activity of God, who does all things. ⁶ Plant your seed in the morning and keep busy all afternoon, for you don’t know if profit will come from one activity or another—or maybe both.*

God said I will bless you! Hebrews 6:13–14 (NLT) *For example, there was God’s promise to Abraham. Since there was no one greater to swear by, God took an oath in his own name, saying: ¹⁴ “I will certainly bless you, and I will multiply your descendants beyond number.”*

Trust the Promises of God- 2 Corinthians 1:20 (KJV) *For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*