

Six Surprising Truths About Generosity

According to one person's count, there are 3573 promises in the Bible. And God makes this remarkable promise to believers who are generous:

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

By being generous, I...

1. Earn the _____ of others.

3 I thank my God every time I remember you.... 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now (Philippians 1:3,5)

10 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it....15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only...18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. (Philippians 4:10,15,18)

- **Self-reflection: Is anyone grateful for my generosity?**

2. Show my _____.

For I want you to understand what really matters (Philippians 1:10)

I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. (Philippians 3:7)

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:20)

- **Self-reflection: What does my giving say about my priorities?**

3. Become more _____.

Your lives will be filled with the truly good qualities which only Jesus Christ can produce, for the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:11, GNT)

- Generosity kills self-centeredness.

4 And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own. 5 The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had (Philippians 2:4,5, GNT)

- **Self-reflection: Am I becoming more like Christ in this area of my life?**

4. Grow my _____.

Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks. (Philippians 2:6, NCV)

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

- **Self-reflection: Do I really trust God to meet my needs?**

5. Invest in _____.

Really, it is not that I want to receive gifts from you, but I want you to have the good that comes from giving. (Philippians 4:17)

18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share with others. 19 In this way they will store up for themselves a treasure which will be a solid foundation for the future. And then they will be able to win the life which is true life. (1 Timothy 6:18-19, GNT)

- **Self-reflection: Am I regularly investing in eternity.**

6. _____ God.

Your gift is like a sweet-smelling sacrifice offered to God. God accepts that sacrifice and it pleases him. (Philippians 4:18, ERV)

- **Self-reflection: Am I pleasing God in this area of my life?**

When I give generously, I...

- earn the gratitude of others.
- show my priorities.
- become more Christ-like.
- grow my faith.
- invest in eternity.
- please God.

I don't want to miss out on the blessings that generosity brings.

The merciful, kind, and generous man benefits himself (Proverbs 11:17, AMPC)