The Message Notes

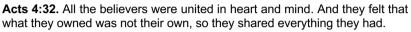
Message: Lifestyle of Generosity

Text: Acts 4:32 (NLT)

Pastor Keith (January 6, 2022)

Talk:

Context: Background to our text:



- United in heart and mind (unity)
- What they owned was not their own (comm**unity**)
- They shared everything (mutually benefits)

Lifestyle of Generosity:

"The first practice of giving in the church was generosity."

Generosity is **openhanded** giving that is **unlimited**. You give freely, benevolently, and cheerfully to **meet needs** and to be a **blessing** to others.

1. History of Generosity							
a)	God is a 0	Genesis 1:29					
Genesis 1:29 . And God said, "Behold I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food . (ESV)							
"Seed produces the food."							
b)	God looks for a	Genesis 2:5					
"Manager is a person who is responsible for the processes of getting work completed efficiently to achieve the desired output through the execution of planning, organizing, and controlling.							
c)	God wants the first	Genesis 2:16-17					
Application : God is a giver . God looks for someone to manage the works of His hands. God expects the first portion of the increase from your works to							

2. Doctrinal Debate: Tithes versus Freewill

be returned to Him.

a)	Giving is	The doctrinal debate is not if giving
	is mandatory.	

"Giving is **mandatory** because it's a **characteristic** of God's **nature** and the **first command** to all Christ followers." Luke 9:23.

Luke 9:23. Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily and follow me." (NLT)

b)	Giving		10%	Leviticus	27:30	C
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Leviticus 27:30. "Every **tithe** of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, **belongs** to the Lord and **must** be **set apart** to him as holy."

"Tithing is an expression of your obedience to the law."

- c) Giving _____ 2 Corinthians 9:7
- **2 Corinthians 9:7.** Each one must give as he had **decided** in his **heart**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

"Freewill giving is an expression of your heart."

"Generosity is based on percentages and not amount, Luke 21:3-4"

Application: Giving is a mandate to offer your life to follow Christ. Generosity can be expressed through your **tithes** (set amount) or **freewill** (unlimited amount).

<u>Tithing</u> expresses our **obedience to the law** and <u>freewill</u> is an **expression of our heart**.

3. Practicing Generosity:

- a) Worship return to God Psalms 24:1, Deuteronomy 12:24-25, Proverbs 3:9-10, Luke 16:10-12
- b) **Blessed to be a Blessing** your vocation 1 Peter 3:9, Ephesians 4:28. Acts 20:35. Genesis 12:2-3
- c) Increase sowing and reaping Genesis 1:12, Galatians 6:7, 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, Proverbs 11:25, Mark 10:28-29

Takeaway: Lifestyle of **generosity** is practiced by worshipping God by returning to Him the **first** of your increase. You are **called** to be a **blessing**, so you can continue to be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which produces thanksgiving to God.