

THE POWER OF A GENEROUS HEART

Breaking the Poverty Mindset

TEXT: Proverbs 11:24- There is one who scatters yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty.

INTRO: A GENEROUS HEART

There is something powerful about a generous heart. Generosity is more than something we do; it is a way of living. A generous heart willingly uses what God has given us to bless others and advance His Kingdom.

But one thing that fights against generosity is poverty **mindset**. A poverty mindset is a way of thinking controlled by the fear of not having enough. It focuses on what is missing, holds tightly to what it has, and struggles to trust God with what comes next.

It is not about how much you have; **it is about how you think about what you have**. That is why Romans 12:2 tells us to be **“transformed by the renewing of your mind.”** God wants to change us from the inside out.

When pressure comes, fear asks, **“What if there isn’t enough?”** Faith says, **“God, I trust You with what I have.”** This message is not about becoming rich. **It is about becoming free—free to trust God, steward wisely, and bless others.** Proverbs 11:24 shows us two different hearts. One scatters and increases; the other withholds because of fear and moves toward lack. From this verse, we discover three characteristics of a generous heart.

1. A GENEROUS HEART IS WILLING TO SOW

Proverbs says, **“There is one who scatters...”**

Think about a farmer scattering seed across a field. Every seed leaving his hand could have remained safely in the barn. But the farmer does not call it losing; **he calls it sowing**. Why? Because he understands that **seed has greater potential in the ground than sitting in the barn**. There is a difference between wasting and sowing. Waste has no purpose, but **sowing has a harvest in mind**.

Paul uses the same picture in **2 Corinthians 9:6- He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**

And God has given us many kinds of seed. Our **time, encouragement, talents, experience, resources, and testimony** can all become seed in someone else's life. Imagine a farmer who becomes afraid to plant after a difficult year. He keeps his seed safely in the barn because he is afraid of losing it. But when harvest season comes, his field is empty. **He protected his seed but forfeited his harvest.**

The problem was not that he lacked seed. **Fear kept him from sowing it.**

APP: Start With What You Have

Instead of asking, “**What would I do if I had more?**” ask, “**What am I doing with what God has already given me?**”

Don't wait for the perfect season to become generous. Be faithful with what God has placed in your hands today.

2. A GENEROUS HEART TRUSTS GOD WITH THE RESULTS

Once the farmer releases the seed, he reaches a place where his ability ends. He can prepare the soil and plant the seed, but he cannot manufacture life inside it.

At some point, sowing has to become trusting.

2 Corinthians 9:8 says, “**And God is able to make all grace abound toward you... that you... may have an abundance for every good work.**”

Those words are encouraging: “**God is able.**” We do our part faithfully, but the results belong to God. We do not give to manipulate God or to make Him owe us something. We give because generosity reflects the heart of God and because we desire to walk in obedience. Faith does not mean we stop planning. We still work, budget, prepare, save, and manage wisely. But after doing what God has called us to do, **we trust Him with what we cannot control.**

APP: Live Beyond Yourself

When God blesses you, look beyond yourself and ask, “**God, how can my life make a difference?**” Maybe you can encourage someone, serve in the church, use your talents, help someone in need, or support something that advances God's Kingdom. **What God places in our lives can become a blessing in someone else's life.**

3. A GENEROUS HEART IS NOT CONTROLLED BY FEAR

Proverbs 11:24 warns that there is one who **withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty.**

- Fear says, “**Protect what you have.**”
- Faith says, “**Trust God with what you have.**”
- Faith does not mean fearful thoughts never come. **Faith means we refuse to allow those thoughts to control our decisions.**

Jesus reminds us in **Matthew 6:31–32** that our Heavenly Father already knows what we need. We still work, plan, save, and make wise decisions, but **we do not have to live controlled by the fear of tomorrow.**

ILL: Think about a child sitting at the dinner table. That child is not worrying about the mortgage, electricity bill, or next week's groceries. The child eats with confidence because

he trusts the one caring for him. Jesus teaches us to have that same confidence in our Heavenly Father.

APP: Don't Let Fear Limit Your Life

Ask yourself: **"Is fear limiting what God wants to do through my life?"**

God has not called us to live recklessly, but neither has He called us to live fearfully.

Be wise. Be faithful. Be generous. And trust God with tomorrow.

CONCLUSION: LORD, CHANGE MY HEART

Proverbs 11:24 teaches us that generosity is ultimately a matter of the heart.

A generous heart is willing to sow.

A generous heart trusts God with the results.

A generous heart is not controlled by fear.

That is **the power of a generous heart**. It does not wait until it has more; it faithfully uses what God has already provided. Before generosity changes what we do, God wants to change our hearts. Maybe fear has been controlling your decisions. Maybe a difficult season from your past is still affecting how you live today.

Let our prayer be:

"Lord, renew my mind, strengthen my faith, and develop within me a generous heart."

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