

LIVING THANKFUL

Brad Driedger - October 11, 2026

- **Remember God's Generous Blessings!**

Psalm 103:1–18 (NLT)

Let all that I am praise the LORD; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. ² Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me. ³ He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. ⁴ He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. ⁵ He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's! ⁶ The LORD gives righteousness and justice to all who are treated unfairly. ⁷ He revealed his character to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel. ⁸ The LORD is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. ⁹ He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. ¹⁰ He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. ¹¹ For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. ¹² He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. ¹³ The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him. ¹⁴ For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust. ¹⁵ Our days on earth are like grass; like wildflowers, we bloom and die. ¹⁶ The wind blows, and we are gone— as though we had never been here. ¹⁷ But the love of the LORD remains forever with those who fear him. His salvation extends to the children's children ¹⁸ of those who are faithful to his covenant, of those who obey his commandments!

Remembrance leads the way to heartfelt gratitude

If you experience gratitude as a burden, you don't know gratitude. Gratitude is not an exertion of the will, it's an overflow of a sense of being treated better than you deserve.

— *John Piper*

- **Respond to His generous blessings by being generous toward God and others**

**Generosity is the overflow of a heart that has been moved by God's grace and generosity toward us!
A thankful heart is a generous heart!**

Luke 19:1–10 (NLT)

Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. ² There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. ³ He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."

⁶ Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. ⁷ But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. ⁸ Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" ⁹ Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to

this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN MUCH!

CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE THE MOST GENEROUS PEOPLE ON THE PLANET!

Generosity is a core value for our church, reflecting God’s character and the call to live out His Kingdom purposes through selfless giving. It is not merely about giving financially, but about a lifestyle of open-handedness in all areas of life: of our time, resources, gifts, and talents. Generosity is a response to God's incredible generosity toward us and is an essential part of our worship, discipleship, and mission.

– *Pastor Claude (GMC Partnership Manual)*

GENEROSITY IS ABOUT A LIFESTYLE OF OPEN-HANDEDNESS

THIS LIFESTYLE OF OPENHANDEDNESS IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR DISCIPLESHIP AND OUR MISSION!

HOW TO “OPEN OUR HANDS” IN GENEROSITY

1. Get Rid of Bad Theology - Walk as a Steward

Deuteronomy 8:17–18 (NIV)

You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” ¹⁸ But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

IT’S ALL HIS ANYWAY - It’s really not a 90 / 10 split

1 Chronicles 29:14 (NLT)

But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!

2. Get Rid of Greed/Materialism - Practice Contentment

Luke 12:15 (NIV)

Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

No one is immune to the “I want more” attitude.

If you allow money to become your primary devotion in life it will steal from your devotion to God!

1 Timothy 6:6–7 (NLT)

Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. ⁷ After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it.

3. Get Rid of Worry - Trust God

Luke 12:22–26 (NIV)

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.

²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?

²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

FEAR OF LACK CAN BE A REAL STRONGHOLD!

Trust God - He is more than able to provide for our needs and he promises he will, if we put him first!

Proverbs 3:9–10 (NIV)

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.