



GENEROSITY Week 3 | November 16/17, 2013  
The Foundation of Generosity | Acts 2:40-47

In the early church, people were changed when they heard and responded to the good news of Jesus. One of the more obvious changes was their generosity.

Read Acts 2:40-47.

The activities of “those who accepted the message” are described here.

[Q] List their activities in verses 42 and 43:

List their activities in verses 44 and 45:

[Q] What do you think the relationship is between the activities you listed in the first column to those in the second?

[Q] What does *devoted* mean (v. 42)? What or who are you *devoted* to? How can you tell?

Read Acts 4:32-37.

[Q] What character qualities do you find in the believers in this passage?

only the gospel of God’s grace can so change the human heart that a man/woman becomes marked by the kind of generosity that we’ve seen above!  
...to the extent that we are gripped by the grace of Jesus Christ,  
we will be earnest and sincere and generous in our giving.  
Jason Dorsey, Pastor, [Redeemer Church, Indianapolis](#)

Thought Question: Have you personally experienced the gospel of Jesus Christ as Peter did, and as the crowd did?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9.

[Q] How was Jesus generous?

Read this [quote from Tim Keller](#) regarding 2 Corinthians 8:9:

When he says '*you know the grace*'—he uses a powerful image, bringing Jesus' salvation into the realm of money and wealth and poverty. He moves them by a 'spiritual recollection' of the gospel. Paul is saying, 'Think on his costly grace. Think on that grace until you are changed into generous people by the gospel in your hearts.'

So the solution to stinginess is a re-orientation to the generosity of Christ in the gospel, where he poured out his wealth for you. Now you don't have to worry about money—the cross proves God's care for you and gives you security.

Now you don't have to envy anyone else's money. Jesus' love and salvation confers on you a remarkable status— one that money cannot give you.

The gospel is *the* dynamic for all heart-change, life-change, and social-change. Change won't happen through "trying harder" but only through encountering the radical grace of God.

Tim Keller, pastor, Redeemer Presb. Church, NYC

[Q] What changes have taken place in *you* because of the generosity of Jesus Christ?

### Make it personal

Let's make God's generosity even more personal. On a separate piece of paper, list the letters of the alphabet down the left side. Next to each letter, write a word or phrase that describes something God has given you. (This is a great exercise to try in your family, a small group or with a friend.)

[Q] Did making this list cause you to think differently about the generosity of God? Explain your answer.

[Q] From the weekend message: What is your gospel-reflection plan? How can you reflect on the gospel every day?

[Q] What opportunities do you have to be generous this week?

### Pray

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