



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“ARE YOU A FLINT, A SPONGE OR A HONEYCOMB”?

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God's generosity is immeasurable. The creation of the universe is a free gift that He has extravagantly and generously given to us. He gives to us everything that has life and He does not care who receives His kindness (Acts 14, Rom. 3:23). As children of God, we need to be holy like our Father is holy (1 Pet 1:15), to open our hearts, and offer our overflowing generosity to others.

1. What Should God's generosity urge us to do?

1.1 Be humble. What do we have that did not come from Him (1Cor.4:7)? We need to recognize that everything comes from God, and we can only give back what He has given us (Jn. 15:7, Ps. 50:12).

1.2 Be dazzled, be amazed (Ps 8:2-5). We should be in awe of the creation of God.

1.3 Become a “**honeycomb**”. We need to imitate Him (Rom.8:29). When we are humbled and amazed, the natural progression is to live in His likeness. God's generosity calls for the highest compliment, to give Him glory.

2. What are the Three Kinds of Givers:

If we are genuinely giving thanks to God, the grace that we should follow is to give a tenth of our time, talent and treasure.

2.1. “**Flint**” (a hard rock). This type of person who has a “hard heart”, is heartless and unyielding. Even after being hammered, there are only sparks or chips. Regardless of what the “Flint” hears, he will not share his talent, service or money. It is not healthy to the soul to never give.

2.2. “**Sponge**” This type of person is “selfish” and needs to be squeezed to give anything. He

will hear the words, but will not initiate anything at all. He will give just to be recognized.

2.3. “**Honeycomb**” (“**pulot pukyutan**”). This is a substance that is oozing and flowing, excreted by bees from their special glands. Similarly, a “Honeycomb” type of person is overflowing with giving: time and prayers to those who need advice, or talent that is needed by the community. Generosity is not just giving an amount. The new life that we have needs to be shared. God gave us the grace to be transformed and to bear fruit.

In 2 Cor. 8, the Macedonians were like “honeycombs”. In the midst of extreme poverty and trials, they were oozing with generosity and were pleading for the privilege of sharing and serving the Lord. Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; whoever sows generously, reaps generously (2Cor.9:6).

God generously gives everything. All that we have comes from Him. He created us from his generosity. The challenge for us is still our unwillingness to commit time, talent, and money. We need simply to obey. Nobody loses by being generous. No one becomes poor by being generous. Generosity brings blessings. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed (Prov.11:24-25). Good will come to those who give freely, “his generation will be mighty in the land, a generation of the upright will be blessed” (Ps. 112:1-6).

Reflection: If you receive God as your salvation, why are you still not giving freely? Think about your 3 T's - Time, Talent, Treasure. what can you offer to others and to the church? Do you bargain when you give? Do you give out of guilt?

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