New Hope For A New Year
Generosity

What makes being generous with our time and money so difficult?

**Million Dollar Question:** How can I be more generous?

**What is Generosity?**

If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.
(Deut. 15:7-8)

**Two Ways of Understanding Generosity**

1. Stewardship

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace*
(1 Pet. 4:10)

Q: What does this passage, and specifically the idea of stewardship, teach us about generosity?

2. Love

*But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*
(1 Jn. 3:17-18)

Q: What does this passage, and specifically the idea of loving others, teach us about generosity?

**Why Should I Be Generous?**

Q: What reasons do we see in these verses for why we should be generous?

*One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.*
(Prov. 11:24-25)

*Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.' For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.*
(Matt. 25:34-46)
For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor; so that you by his poverty might become rich.
(2 Cor. 8:9)

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
(2 Cor. 9:6-7)

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
(Heb. 13:5)

How Can I Be More Generous?

Establishing Right Priorities

1. God (Matt 6:33)
2. Family (1 Tim 5:8)
3. Church (Gal 6:10)
4. Others (Phil 2:3)
5. Self

1. Where has God gifted you?
2. Where has God called you?

Sidenote: How Much Should I Be Giving?

1. Give out of your abundance (2 Cor 8:12-15)
3. Tithe?

Closing Question: What steps can you/should you take in order to be more generous this year?