

## The Generosity Mindset: Breaking Free from Scarcity

Text Scripture: **Proverbs 11:24 (ESV)** *One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.*

Introduction: Many people live with a scarcity mindset—believing there's never enough, hoarding resources, and regularly speak words of lack. God calls us to a generosity mindset- trusting His provision, giving freely, and declaring His abundance. Today, we'll explore how to shift from scarcity to supernatural generosity in both thought and speech.

Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:4-15) is a powerful illustration of how the condition of our heart affects our ability to receive and multiply God's blessings—

The Parable of the Sower (Paraphrased): Jesus told of a farmer who sowed seed, which fell on four types of ground:

1. Hard path – Birds (the enemy) stole the seed. (Scarcity mindset: Fear lets doubt devour God's promises.)
2. Rocky soil – Plants sprang up but withered under trial. (Temporary generosity not roots in faith.)
3. Thorny soil – Seed grew but was choked by worldly worries. (Distracted by "not enough" instead of trusting God.)
4. Good soil – Yielded a 100x harvest. (Generosity mindset: Receives God's Word and bears fruit abundantly.)

Just as the sower's harvest depended on the soil's condition, your generosity depends on whether your heart is rooted in God's abundance or the world's scarcity.

### 1. Trust God as Your Provider (Not Your Possessions)

Key Thought: Scarcity says, "What if I run out?" Generosity says, "God will supply all my needs."

**Philippians 4:19 (ESV)** *And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

**Malachi 3:10 (ESV)** *Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, (and see) if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

**Matthew 6:33 (ESV)** *Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

- The widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:8-16) gave her last meal to Elijah, and God multiplied her flour and oil.
- Jesus fed 5,000 with a boy's small lunch (John 6:1-14), proving God multiplies what we surrender.

What to Say (Instead of Scarcity Talk):

- ✗ I can't afford to give."
- ✓ God is my source, and I trust Him to provide as I give."

### 2. Give Cheerfully, Not Reluctantly

Key Thought: Scarcity gives grudgingly; generosity gives with joy.

**2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV)** *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

**Luke 6:38 (ESV)** *Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.*

**Proverbs 22:9 (ESV)** *Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.*

- The poor widow who gave two mites (Mark 12:41-44) was praised by Jesus because she gave all she had.
- The early church shared everything (Acts 4:32-35), and "there was not a needy person among them."

What to Say (Instead of Scarcity Talk):

- ✗ I'll give when I have more."
- ✓ I get to be part of God's work today by giving joyfully!"

### 3. Speak Blessing Over Your Resources

Key Thought: Words shape reality—declare God's abundance, not lack.

**Proverbs 18:21 (ESV)** *Death and life are in the power of the tongue.*

**Mark 11:23 (ESV)** *Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.*

**Deuteronomy 8:18 (ESV)** *You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.*

- Abraham called himself "father of many nations" (Romans 4:17) before he had a son—his words aligned with God's promise.

- Elijah declared rain (1 Kings 18:41-45) in the middle of a drought, and God answered.

What to Say (Instead of Scarcity Talk):

❌ "Money is tight; nothing's working out."

✅ "God is my provider, and He opens doors I can't!"

### 4. Sow Generously to Reap Abundantly

Key Thought: You can't outgive God—He rewards open-handed living.

**2 Corinthians 9:6 (ESV)** *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

**Galatians 6:7 (ESV)** *Do not be deceived: God if not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.*

**Psalms 112:5 (ESV)** *It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.*

- The Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:8-17) prepared a room for Elisha, and God gave her a son.

- Boaz blessed Ruth (Ruth 2:8-16) with extra grain, and God blessed him with a royal lineage (Ruth 4:13-17).

What to Say (Instead of Scarcity Talk):

❌ "What if I give and end up with less?"

✅ "I'm sowing seed for a harvest—God's economy never fails!"

### 5. Live Open-Handed, Knowing God Owns It All

Key Thought: Nothing is truly ours—we're stewards of God's blessings.

**Haggai 2:8 (ESV)** *The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts.*

**1 Chronicles 29:14 (ESV)** *But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You.*

**Psalms 24:1 (ESV)** *The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,*

- King David gave generously for the temple (1 Chronicles 29:3-5), inspiring others to give.

- The Macedonians (2 Corinthians 8:1-5) gave beyond their means because they first gave themselves to God.

What to Say (Instead of Scarcity Talk):

❌ "I have to hold on to what's mine."

✅ "Everything I have is God's—I'm just managing it for His glory!"

Closing Challenge:

- Check Your Words: Are you speaking lack or abundance?

- Take a Step: Give something this week (time, money, encouragement) as an act of faith.

Pray This: God, break every chain of scarcity in my mind and mouth. Teach me to live and speak as a generous steward of Your blessings!

Remember this: **2 Corinthians 9:6** *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*