



Praying as families for a Heart of Generosity Towards the Needy and Kingdom Work

Day 25

In the Message version of Isaiah 58:10, translates as follows: "If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness." The promise of God regarding how one's life will glow and shine is contingent upon their generosity towards the needy. This is because the hungry and poor hold a special place in God's heart. Proverbs 10:17 reinforces this, stating, "He who is gracious and lends a hand to the poor lends to the Lord. And the Lord will repay him for his good deeds." The act of giving to the poor is directly acknowledged as giving to the Lord.

The presence of the needy and poor is constant in any social context due to our societal framework. However, the call to be generous extends to all who belong to the body of Christ. It is easy to give when we have an abundance in our savings, but true generosity is revealed when it becomes a sacrifice, especially when it hurts to give. These moments are noted by God, as seen in the story of the widow whose offering was more significant to Jesus than the gifts of the wealthy.

At Urban India Ministries, we have undertaken fundraising for a family research training institute to train family ministry leaders in Asia, requiring nearly 1 million US dollars. We started construction with less than 10% of the needed funds, trusting in His provision. A poor woman, working as a housemaid in one of Bangalore's slums, surprised us by walking into our office and contributing her savings to the cause. She handed over 20 thousand Indian rupees (less than 300 US dollars), which was more than a couple of months' wages for her. Though a modest amount, her generosity touched us deeply. We felt as if we received 300 thousand US dollars. It is through such generous hearts that His Kingdom work is built.

To be generous one need not be wealthy as generosity springs from a grateful and content heart. When we express gratitude to God for His loving gifts, we naturally become generous. While



many of us lack nothing in terms of food, clothing, and shelter, there are those who suffer for these basic needs. As part of God's church, let us not be insensitive, accumulating more than what is needed. Instead, let's develop generous hearts towards the things that truly matter to God and His Kingdom.

LET US PRAY

Dear Lord Jesus, the giver of all good gifts, we acknowledge that everything we have is from your generous hand. Often, we have been selfish in focusing on our own needs rather than being generous with your blessings. We pray for generous hearts, keeping in mind what we have received from you. Grant us an eternal perspective, ensuring that worldly treasures do not take hold of our lives and ministry. Lead us by your Spirit to give where it is needed the most. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

