



1. Pastor Rick said that being generous brings glory to God. What is glory? Why do you think being generous brings glory to God?

*Answer— The word glory means to exalt, to honor, splendor, to be worthy of something good. We bring glory to God by being generous because as we are obedient to Him through the giving of our time, talent, and treasure, it expresses our belief that He is worthy of our obedience. It is an expression on our part that all we have is from Him and deserves to be given back to Him because He is so good to us.*

2. Pastor Rick said that being generous will make your relationship with God stronger. How do you think that works? Read Matthew 6:21. Why does it say to put your treasure before it talks about your heart?

*Answer— As we make the decision to become generous with everything we have, it begins to refocus our attention on what is really important in life. This causes us to see things the way that God sees them and we begin to realize why God says they are so important, bringing us closer to Him. Also, as we become generous, God turns around and is even more generous to us causing us to trust and rely on Him even more. This causes us to love Him even more. The reason why Matthew 6:21 mentions treasure before heart is because our heart (desires) will follow whatever we treasure. If you make eternal things as the most important aspect of life, then your desires, your heart, will follow.*

3. What is materialism? How do you know if you are materialistic? Do you think Americans struggle with materialism more than others? How does generosity cure the sin of materialism?

*Answer—Materialism is the mindset that having things and being comfortable, having all of our physical needs met, is the most important thing in life. In America, we have been blessed with the ability to have more material possessions at our fingertips than any other society in the history of the world. We are encouraged to pursue “the good life”, to “grab all the gusto” we can. Commercials portray having more stuff as the highest pursuit you can engage in. Just living in America instills in us the idea that we deserve to have everything we want. Generosity cures materialism because it forces you to take your eyes off of yourself and what you have and focus on the needs of others. It teaches us what the Bible says: “It is more blessed to give than receive”.*

4. Pastor Rick said that our net worth does not determine our self worth. What do you think he

meant? Do you know anyone who acts like their net worth makes them important? How do they act? Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. How does God say wealthy people who are Christians should act instead?

*Answer—When you think that your net worth is what makes you important, then you treat other people as being inferior to you simply because you are wealthy. You become prideful and you treat people who are poor with disdain instead of using your wealth to help others. You begin to act like everyone around you should show you respect because you are rich.*

5. Do you agree with this statement: “Generosity demonstrates the maturity of my faith”? Why do you think that this is true? If this is true, then what would be the opposite of this statement? Based on these statements, how would you rate your spiritual maturity?

*Answer—This statement is definitely true because the more generous you are, the more you are like Jesus. Being like Jesus is the standard of what it means to be spiritually mature. For whatever reason it seems that becoming generous is one of the last things that we establish in our lives as we grow spiritually. The opposite of this statement would be that being stingy demonstrates how spiritually immature you are.*

6. Pastor Rick said that generosity will have an impact in two main ways, what were they? Explain first how you think being generous has an impact on eternal things and then how it has an impact on earthly things.

*Answer—The two areas of impact are on eternal and earthly things. Being generous can have an eternal impact when we use our money to reach people with the gospel so they go to heaven, when we invest our time in other Christians so that they grow spiritually, God rewards us with eternal rewards for whatever we do for Him. It impacts earthly things in that it can change the complete direction of another person’s life by meeting their needs. It means that God will bless us in this life on earth by meeting all of our needs. So it impacts both our and other’s lives both now and forever.*

7. Pastor Rick said that two lies we tell ourselves about being generous are: 1. When I have more money, I will give more money and 2. When I feel like being generous, I will start becoming generous. Why are these lies?

*Answer—Being generous is a condition of the heart, not of the wallet. If you do not have a generous heart with what you have now, you will not when you have more. Getting more does not change the condition of your heart, only being submissive to the will of God does that. This is why we make the decision to be generous no matter what we have at this point, because only then will we be generous when we have more. People think that if they have more, then they will feel like doing it. If I am stingy now, I will continue to be stingy when I have more. People who make these statements are lying to themselves to make themselves feel better about their stinginess.*

