

### **GENEROSITY IS LOVE IN ACTION**

Leaving a Lasting Legacy Rick Warren

"We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation."
Psalm 78:4 (NLT)

"Three things continue forever: <u>faith, hope</u>, and <u>love.</u> And the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NCV)

#### WHY MUST WE MODEL & TEACH GENEROSITY?

# 1. GENEROSITY "We all live off <u>his generous abundance</u>, gift after gift after gift." John 1:16 (MSG) "Everything we have has <u>come from you</u>, and we only give you what is yours already!" 1 Chronicles 29:14 (TLB) "They will give glory to God. For your generosity to them." 2 Corinthians 9:13 (NLT)

# 2. GENEROSITY "You cannot serve both God and money." Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

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#### 4. GENEROSITY

"Your <u>generosity</u> . . . not only provides for the <u>needs of God's people</u>, but also produces more and more prayers of thanksgiving to God."

2 Corinthians 9:11-12 (GW)

"If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder <u>and do nothing</u>, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear." 1 John 3:17 (MSG)

#### 5. GENEROSITY

"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full . . . running over. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." Luke 6:38 (NLT)

"Give generously . . . and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your <u>God will bless you in all your work</u> and in <u>everything you put your hand</u> to." Deuteronomy 15:10 (NIV)

#### 6. GENEROSITY

Jesus: "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving." Acts 20:35 (GNT)

#### 7. GENEROSITY

"Your very giving proves the reality of your faith." 2 Corinthians 9:13 (PHILLIPS)

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever <u>sows generously</u> will also reap generously. Each of you should give what he has decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in <u>all</u> things at <u>all</u> times, having <u>all</u> that you need, you will abound in <u>every</u> good work." 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV)

#### 8. GENEROSITY

"Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven." Matthew 6:20 (NIV)

"Tell those who are rich not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone. . . . Tell them to <u>use their money to do good.</u> They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. <u>By doing this</u> they will be <u>storing up real</u> treasure for themselves in heaven—it is the only safe investment for eternity!"

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (TLB)

"If you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?" Luke 16:11 (NLT)

## Next Steps

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#### LEAVING A LEGACY OF FAITH

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"Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

#### WHAT WE MUST MODEL AND TEACH ABOUT FAITH FAITH IS . . .

WHEN I DON'T SEE IT "Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1 (NIV) WHEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT "It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He 2. obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before." Hebrews 11:7 (NLT) "It was faith that made Abraham obey when God called him and go out to a country

which God had promised to him. He left his own country without knowing where he was going." Hebrews 11:8 (GNT)

#### 3.

WHEN I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT "[Motivated] by faith he left Egypt behind him, being unawed and undismayed by the wrath of the king; for he never flinched but held staunchly to his purpose and endured steadfastly as one who gazed on Him Who is invisible."

Hebrews 11:27 (AMPC)

"What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. The certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see." Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)

# "It was by faith that Joseph, when he was about to die, said confidently that the

people of Israel would leave Egypt. He even commanded them to take his bones with them when they left." Hebrews 11:22 (NLT)

"By faith, we see the world called into existence by God's word, what we see created by what we don't see." Hebrews 11:3 (MSG)

"For he spoke, and it came to be." Psalm 33:9 (NIV)

"I have made you a father of many nations." . . . God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not." Romans 4:17 (NIV)

"God . . . speaks of future events with as much certainty as though they were already past." Romans 4:17 (TLB)

"For it is by our faith that we are put right with God; it is by our confession that we are saved." Romans 10:10 (GNT)

# WHEN I DON'T HAVE IT "It was faith that made Abel offer to God a better sacrifice than Cain's. Through his

faith . . . God himself approved of his gifts." Hebrews 11:4 (GNT)

"Because of their great joy . . . they gave . . . even more than they could afford." 2 Corinthians 8:2-3 (NCV)

"Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns with wheat and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines."

Proverbs 3:9 (TLB)

"On every Lord's Day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for this offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn." 1 Corinthians 16:2 (TLB)

BEFORE I RECEIVE IT "By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days." Hebrews 11:30 (NIV)

"When you pray and ask for something, believe that you have received it, and you will be given whatever you ask for." Mark 11:24 (GNT)

Jesus: "Because of your faith, it will happen." Matthew 9:29 (NLT)

## IF I DON'T GET IT

"These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better."

Hebrews 11:39-40 (NIV)

"Faith comes from hearing the message." Romans 10:17 (NIV)



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### **LEAVING A LEGACY OF HOPE**

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"He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, so the next generation might know them . . . and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God." Psalm 78:5-7 (NLT)

#### **8 REASONS FOR HOPE** BECAUSE I TRUST JESUS. THERE IS . . .

## 1. NO CONDEMNATION:

"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Romans 8:1 (NIV)

#### 2. NO DOMINATION:

"Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:2 (NIV)

"The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. . . . He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins." Romans 8:3 (NLT)

"Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. . . . But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace." Romans 8:5-6 (NLT)

#### 3. NO TERMINATION:

"The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you, And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit." Romans 8:11 (NLT)

"For in this hope we were saved." Romans 8:24 (NIV)

#### 4. NO LIMITATION:

"His Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we will share his treasures—for all God gives to his Son Jesus is now ours too." Romans 8:16-17 (TLB)

"But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later."

Romans 8:17-18 (NLT)

**5. NO MISCALCULATION:**"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 (NIV)

"For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son. so that his Son would be the firstborn with many brothers and sisters."

Romans 8:29 (NLT)

"Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, and aching groans." Romans 8:26 (MSG)

#### 6. NO INTIMIDATION:

"What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?" Romans 8:31 (NLT)

"Who can accuse the people God has chosen? No one, because God is the One who makes them right." Romans 8:33 (NCV)

"None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us." Romans 8:37 (MSG)

7. NO DEPRIVATION:

"Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?" Romans 8:32 (NLT)

#### 8. NO SEPARATION:

"I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below-indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)

"Live and act in a way worthy of those who have been chosen for such wonderful blessings as these." Ephesians 4:1 (TLB)



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#### LIVING BY YOUR CONVICTIONS

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#### CONVICTIONS THAT SHAPE MY DECISIONS

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"For everything comes from God alone. Everything lives by his power, and everything is for his glory." Romans 11:36 (TLB)

#### IMPLICATION:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all vour mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment."

Matthew 22:37-38 (NIV)

OPPOSITION: Jesus: "People will do to you exactly what they did to me. They will do it because you belong to me, and they don't know the one who sent me." John 15:21 (CEV)

#### 2. CONVICTION:

Jesus: "I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." Matthew 16:18 (NLT)

#### • IMPLICATION:

**IMPLICATION:**"I beg you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to stop arguing among yourselves. Let there be real harmony so that there won't be splits in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose." 1 Corinthians 1:10 (TLB)

**OPPOSITION:** "Look out for those who cause people to be against each other and who upset other people's faith. They are against the true teaching you learned, so stay away from them." Romans 16:17 (NCV)

3. **CONVICTION:**"The second most important commandment is: <u>'Love your neighbor as you love</u> vourself.' There is no other commandment more important than these two."

Mark 12:31 (GNT)

"Love your enemies and do good to them; lend and expect nothing back. You will then have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High God. For he is good to the ungrateful and the wicked." Luke 6:35 (GNT)

#### • IMPLICATION:

"Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king." 1 Peter 2:17 (NLT)

**OPPOSITION:** "If the world hates you, remember it hated me first. The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world." John 15:18-19 (NLT)

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Jesus: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

#### • IMPLICATION:

"Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all. . . . And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view." 2 Corinthians 5:14-16 (NIV)

**OPPOSITION:** "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

#### 5. CONVICTION:

Jesus looked at them and said: "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26 (NIV)

#### IMPLICATION:

IMPLICATION:

Jesus: "According to your faith let it be done to you." Matthew 9:29 (NIV)

**OPPOSITION:** "Because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any mighty miracles among them." Mark 6:5 (NLT)

#### 6. CONVICTION:

"The Good News about God's kingdom will be preached in all the world, to every nation. Then the end will come." Matthew 24:14 (NCV)

Next Step

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