



**Celebrating the Year of Generosity at Clements  
II Corinthians 8 and 9  
August 24, 2014**

**Introduction:**

Today marks the 34<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the 2014 physical year. That means we have 18 Sundays left in this year. At the beginning of 2014 I publically stated that; "the biggest task I would face in the realm of generosity was to de-program the way we think about money." Well, after 34 Sundays and a lot of Spirit filled activity along the way, I believe the Lord has allowed us to accomplish that goal. It's a new day at Clements Baptist Church. We are learning and growing together. I am proud to be your pastor but most of all I am proud to be your friend.

**What is Generosity?**

Generosity is a lifestyle. A lifestyle which we share all that we have; all that we are; and all that we ever will become as a demonstration of God's love and a response to God's grace.

**Contagious Generosity:**

"There is no status quo in a church culture; a church is either moving toward or moving away from becoming a generous church. Either you are leading your people toward a lifestyle of biblical generosity, or you are watching them drift toward selfishness and the world's economy. A generous church culture must be constantly, intentionally influenced until it results in the contagious generosity of the congregation."

**2014 has arguably been the most challenging year of my entire ministry. Only by the grace of God have we stayed the course during tornados, leadership changes, and many other difficult situations that have risen. Through it all, God has been so faithful.**

**Four Words That Define My Life and Ministry:**

- 1. Lordship**
- 2. Relationships**
- 3. Discipleship**
- 4. Stewardship**

**No one will ever become a generous person until God transforms his heart because at the core of every human being is selfishness.**

**I. Generosity Focuses on the Attitude and Not the Amount.  
(II Corinthians 8:12)**

**Four Attitudes of Generosity:**

**1. An attitude of joy.**

**Unbelievers will never understand giving. It is impossible to understand Christian giving until the Holy Spirit transforms your soul. The mark of maturity in all of our lives comes when we understand that there really is more joy in giving than there is in getting.**

**2. An attitude of the supernatural.**

**I have been learning about generosity and marriage for the last thirty-five years. I have learned that both are attainable, and both require total commitment.**

**3. An attitude of enthusiasm.**

**4. An attitude of spiritual discipline.**

**II. Generosity Brings Spiritual Results to the Top.**

**Five results of Generosity:**

**1. Generosity increases our love for Jesus.**

**2. Generosity makes us more like Jesus.**

**3. Generosity strengthens our faith.**

**4. Generosity produces gratefulness in others.**

**5. Generosity displays God to a lost and dying world.**

**Every time you give to your church budget you support global missions. Every time you give to ICR and allow your pastor to travel to a different country and train a pastor you are supporting global missions.**

**Pastor Tim's Three Fold Challenge:**

**1. Become generous in your giving.**

**2. Become generous in your praying.**

**3. Become generous in your going.**