



2024 LESSON SERIES Q4

Christian Basics
Stirring It Up In '24

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Presented By

The Prince George's Church of Christ
Education Ministry

Quarter 3 Lessons Weeks 36 - 41

6 Part – Family: Nurturing A Spirit of Generosity

From a theological perspective, both the Hebrew and Greek meanings of generosity underscore the importance of giving freely, willingly, and joyfully. Generosity is not merely about giving material possessions but is also about giving of oneself—time, talents, resources, and love—in service to God and others. It reflects a deep understanding of God's grace and a desire to reflect His character by extending kindness, compassion, and generosity towards others.

Quarter 3 Lessons

Weeks 36 - 41

6 Part – Family: Nurturing A Spirit of Generosity

Week 36 – Matthew 15:32-39
Generosity In Family Sharing

Week 37 – Matthew 4:19-25
Generous Time With Christ

Week 38 – Luke 8:26-37
Mental Health Impact On Families Generosity

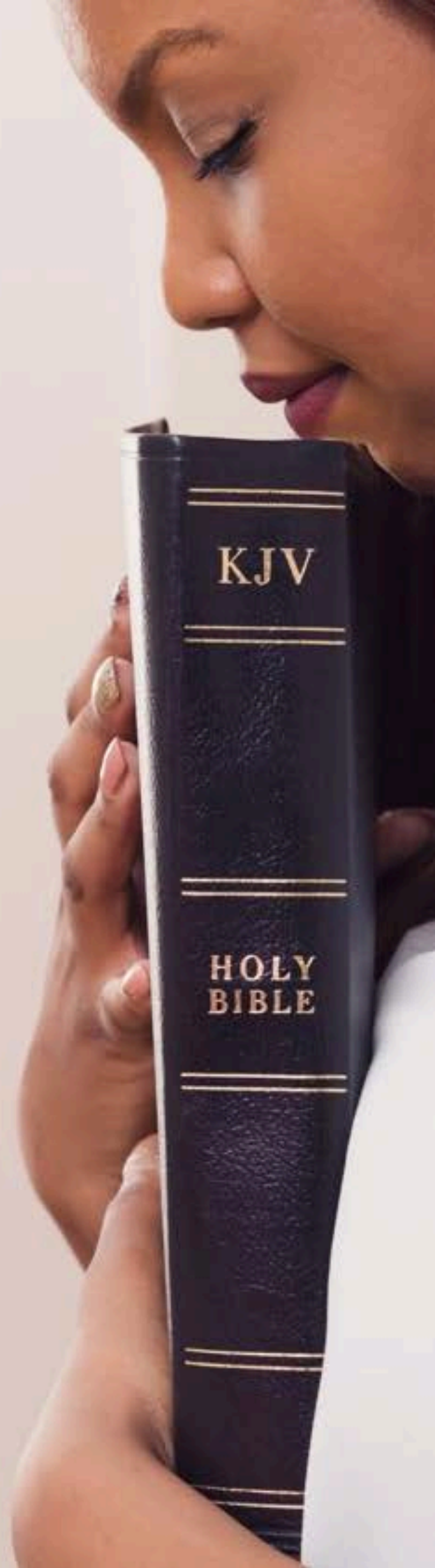
Week 39 – Matthew 18:21-22
Family Forgiveness and Generosity

Week 40 – Philippians 2:3-4
Managing Selfish Family Members

Week 41 – Genesis 4:1-3
Generosity and Recovery From Conflict

O.T. and N.T. Meanings of Generosity

Hebrew Perspective: In Hebrew, the concept of generosity is often associated with the term "nadav" (נָדַב) which means to volunteer, offer willingly, or give freely. This term conveys the idea of giving out of a spontaneous and willing heart rather than out of obligation or compulsion. In the Hebrew Scriptures, particularly in the context of offerings and sacrifices, the act of giving generously is seen as an expression of devotion, gratitude, and obedience to God. For example, in Exodus 35:21-22, the Israelites willingly bring their offerings for the construction of the Tabernacle, demonstrating their generosity and willingness to contribute to the work of God.



O.T. and N.T. Meanings of Generosity

Greek Perspective: In Greek, the theological concept of generosity is often expressed through the term "charis" (χάρις), which means grace or favor. This term is closely related to the idea of God's unmerited favor and benevolence towards humanity.

In the New Testament, the concept of generosity is often linked to the grace of God and the outpouring of His love and mercy. For example, in **2 Corinthians 9:7**, Paul encourages believers to *give generously, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for "God loves a cheerful giver."*

This verse highlights the connection between generosity and the grace of God, emphasizing the joy and gratitude that come from giving freely out of a heart.

Week 42 - Why Failure is Not Possible



1.Divine Promise and Presence: When believers follow God's commands, they do so with the assurance of His divine presence and support. God promises to be with His followers always (**Matthew 28:20**). This divine presence empowers and sustains those who obey His command, ensuring that they are not alone in their mission.

2.God's Sovereign Will: God's commands are in alignment with His sovereign will and divine plan for humanity. When individuals obey God, they are participating in His greater purpose. This alignment with God's will means that success, according to His standards, is ultimately achieved.

3. Transformation and Impact: Obedience to God's commands has the potential to bring about transformation and impact in the lives of individuals and communities. The teaching of the Gospel and the act of baptism can lead to spiritual renewal, salvation, and positive change in the lives of those who believe, demonstrating the mission's effectiveness.

4. Eternal Significance: The mission of teaching and baptizing is of eternal significance. It deals with matters of salvation and the eternal destiny of souls. Obeying God's command in this regard ensures that the message of salvation reaches those who need it, leading to the eternal reward of those who believe.

5. Historical Evidence of Success: Throughout history, countless individuals and communities have obeyed God's command to teach and baptize. The spread of Christianity and the growth of faith communities worldwide are evidence of the success of this mission. It demonstrates that God's commands are fulfilled, leading to the salvation of many.

Week 42 - Failure is Not an Option **Acts 20:17 - 25**

Obeying God's command in **Matthew 28:19** to go and teach all nations and baptize believers is viewed as a mission of paramount importance and is often considered a mission without failure.

Christians must find encouragement and motivation in the understanding that they are participating in a mission that aligns with God's purposes and is ultimately effective.





Week 43 - Week 45

Christian Devotion Is With The Full Heart

Proverbs 3:5 is a well-known verse that emphasizes the importance of trusting in the Lord wholeheartedly and not relying solely on one's understanding.

This verse reminds believers that true devotion to God requires a **wholehearted commitment to His ways** and a willingness to set aside human understanding in favor of divine guidance.





Devotion Demands

1. Absolute Trust in God: The verse encourages believers to trust in the Lord with all their heart. This implies unwavering faith and complete reliance on God. It teaches that total devotion to God involves trusting His wisdom, guidance, and providence above one's own limited understanding.

2. Abandoning Self-Reliance: By cautioning against leaning on one's understanding, the passage underscores the need to abandon self-reliance. It teaches that true devotion to God requires letting go of the tendency to rely on human reasoning, knowledge, and wisdom, and instead leaning on God's wisdom and guidance.

3. Acknowledging God's Sovereignty: Total devotion to God includes recognizing His sovereignty and lordship over all aspects of life. Trusting in the Lord with all one's heart means acknowledging God's authority and control and submitting to His divine will in every situation.



Devotion Demands

4. Seeking God's Will and Direction: To trust in the Lord with all one's heart implies a willingness to seek God's will and direction in all decisions and circumstances. Total devotion involves an ongoing commitment to consulting God, praying for guidance, and aligning one's life with His purposes.

5. Embracing God's Wisdom and Knowledge: This verse encourages believers to prioritize God's wisdom and knowledge over their own. Total devotion means valuing and seeking the wisdom found in God's Word, allowing His principles and teachings to guide one's thoughts, choices, and actions.

Acts 2:42

The early Christians devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and doctrine

3 Part Series: Christian Devotion

Week 43

What is devotion?

Week 44

Why devotion is like living life "post-pandemic"

Week 45

How the 21st century church can replicate the 1st century church.





Week 46

Spiritual Gratitude

1 Thessalonians 5:12 – 18

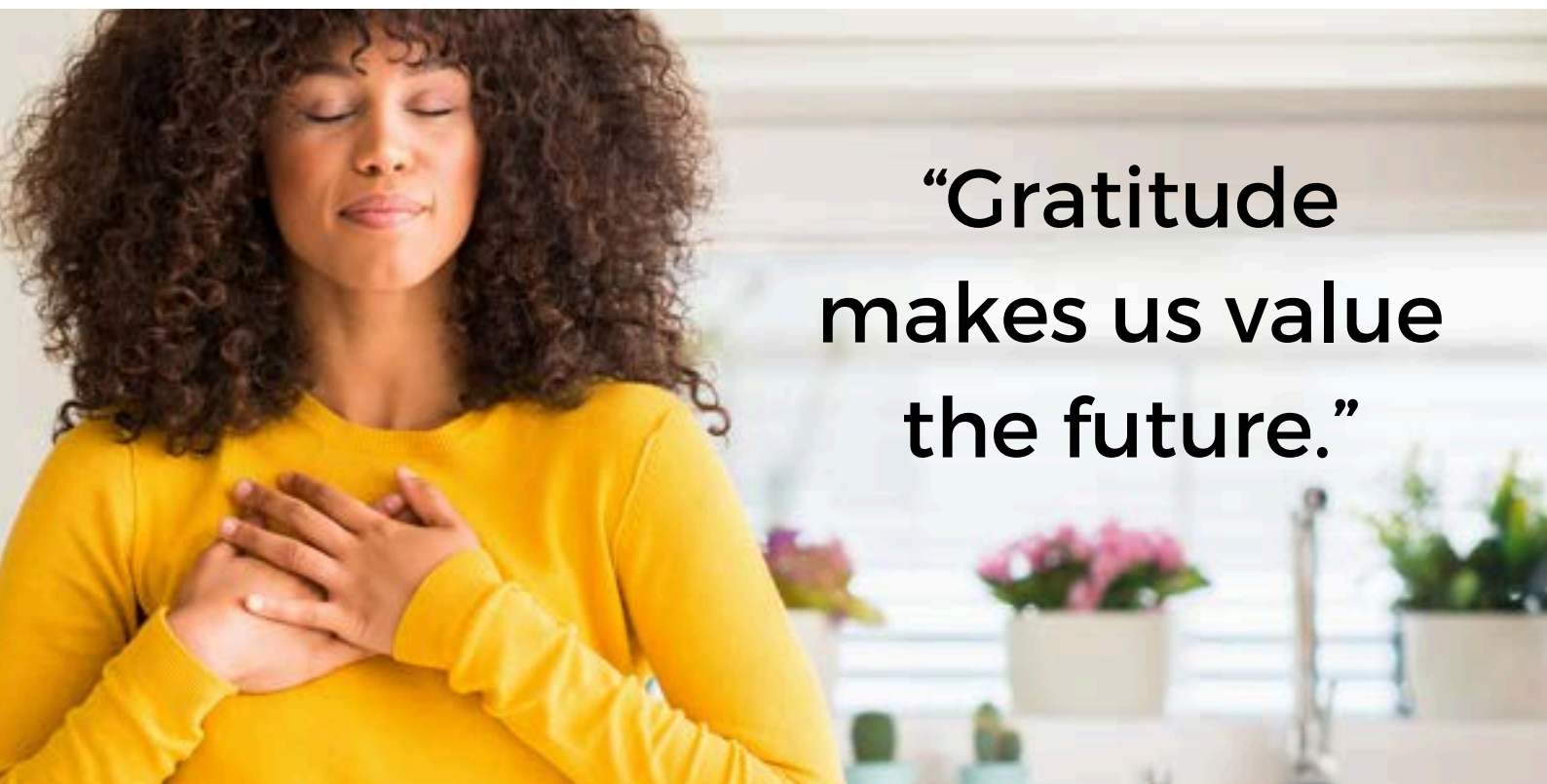
Gratitude, according to Robert Emmons, PhD and professor of psychology at the University of California, is more than the mere saying “thank you” but rather the **affirming of goodness** in a person who is capable of recognizing that sources of gratitude are from outside of self.

Gratitude becomes a feeling of indebtedness for someone going out of their way to do something special but also on a much larger scale recognizing the amazing handiwork of God from creation to providing redemption and salvation. Gratitude helps people practice empathy which is the ability both to understand and share in the feelings of another person.

Physical Effects of Gratitude On The Body

According to research, practicing Gratitude has been known to have a profound effect on the mental and physical body. Studies have shown that gratitude produces chemicals in your brain—dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin—that make you feel peaceful and happy. Gratitude can also:

- Lower blood pressure
- Lower levels of disease-causing inflammation
- Decrease stress
- Provide better and more restful sleep, among other positive effects



**“Gratitude
makes us value
the future.”**



Week 47 - Week 49

Mentoring

Titus 2:1 – 8

1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: **2** that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; **3** the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things – **4** that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, **5** to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

6 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, **7** in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, **8** sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.



Week 47

Whose Mentoring Our Young People?

In **Titus 2:1**, Paul instructs Titus to teach what accords with sound doctrine. Mentoring allows the transmission of biblical truths, values, and teachings from the older generation, who have gained wisdom and understanding through their experiences, to the younger generation. This ensures the preservation and passing on of a solid doctrinal foundation within the Christian community.

Mentoring by the older generation, as emphasized in **Titus 2:1-8**, is crucial for transmitting sound doctrine, modeling godly behavior, and promoting unity and edification within the church. It ensures the continuity of faith and values across generations, fostering a healthy and spiritually vibrant Christian community.

iMPROVE
DEVELOP
TRAINING
MOTIVATE
COACHING
iNSPIRE



Week 47

The Older Mentors Must Transmit Sound Teaching and Modeling

Transmission of Sound Doctrine: In **Titus 2:1**, Paul instructs Titus to teach what accords with sound doctrine. Mentoring allows the transmission of biblical truths, values, and teachings from the older generation, who have gained wisdom and understanding through their experiences, to the younger generation. This ensures the preservation and passing on of a solid doctrinal foundation within the Christian community.



Titus 2:1 (ESV)
**"But as for you,
teach what
accords with
sound doctrine."**

Week 48
The Older Mentors Must Display
Godly Behavior

Modeling Godly Behavior

The passage emphasizes the importance of older men and women living in a manner worthy of respect, demonstrating godly behavior to the younger generation. Through mentoring relationships, older individuals have the opportunity to model virtues such as self-control, integrity, reverence, and sound speech. This modeling is crucial for the spiritual development and maturity of younger believers.



Titus 2:2-8 (ESV)

"Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled."

Week 50

The Attributes of Healthy Zeal

Zeal, in a biblical context, refers to intense passion, enthusiasm, or fervor for a particular cause, especially when it comes to one's devotion to God, righteousness, or the advancement of His kingdom. Biblical zeal involves a wholehearted commitment to living out one's faith and actively pursuing God's purposes with great energy and dedication.

Zeal, when aligned with God's purposes, can be a powerful force for positive change and the spread of God's truth.

Week 50

Zeal Can Be Either Helpful or Harmful

Jesus displayed zeal for the sanctity of God's house during His earthly ministry. In John 2:13-17, Jesus cleansed the temple by driving out the money changers and those selling animals for sacrifices. His actions were driven by a passionate desire to uphold the sacredness of the temple as a place of prayer, denouncing practices that compromised its holiness.

John 2:16-17 (ESV):

"And he told those who sold the pigeons, 'Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'"

Week 50

Zeal Can Be Either Helpful or Harmful

Romans 10:1 – 5

1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. The Message of Salvation to All 5 For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.

In a dissertation entitled, “Zeal Without Knowledge”, by Dane Ortlund, Paul’s zeal was more “horizontal” than “vertical”. Paul was more concerned about keeping the Torah than he was about having a zeal for submitting to God’s righteousness. The zeal possessed by Paul put him on a path of pursuit for the traditions of his fathers, the authoritative “oral traditions instead of the vertical pursuit of obedience to God centered in knowledge.

Notes on Healthy Zeal



Scripture:

Application & Examples:

Actions:
