

Today in our SUPERNATURAL SERIES ON THE BOOK OF ACTS WE ARE LOOKING AT SUPERNATURAL GENEROSITY:

What is SUPERNATURAL GENEROSITY?

IF NATURAL is normal or ordinary, then SUPER NATURAL is something out of the ordinary or extraordinary

If GENEROSITY is to be kind and generous, and to give unselfishly, without holding back

Then, SUPERNATURAL GENEROSITY is to show extraordinary kindness, to bless abundantly, and to not hold back.

WHO IS THE MOST GENEROUS PERSON YOU KNOW?

PART 1: GOD IS THE MOST GENEROUS PERSON I KNOW:

- He is so kind. So generous.

Do you realise how much God loves you? Do you know how generous God is?

- We were cut off from God because of sin. God knew that we were lost and hopeless. God is holy and just, and therefore had to punish sin. But God had a plan. Instead of punishing us, Jesus Christ came as our Saviour and took the punish we deserved.
- God offered us His reckless generous lavish love.
- "Jesus came to seek and save the lost." (Luke 19:10)
- What Mercy! (God withheld the punishment I deserved.)
- What Grace! (It is underserved favour. I can't earn it. It's free.)

1. God is so generous that He offers forgiveness of sin & eternal life.

- Life doesn't end at the grave. There is a real heaven and hell. God knew our eternity was at risk, so he made a way.

On the cross Jesus paid the full price for our sin. He died for our sin. He rose again, defeating sin and death, and He is coming back to judge the world.

Are you right with God? Are you a child of God? Or, is your eternity at risk? If it is, then take Gods generous gift of life.

Now, I want to give you a quick overview of Gods generous love...

At the age of 30, Jesus started his ministry. He was baptised in the River Jordan. As he was baptised "...the heavens opened and Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit" The father spoke from heaven and said this is my son in whom I am well pleased. (Luke 3:21)

After being filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus started his ministry. From then onward, wherever Jesus went, full of the Holy Spirit, he brought breakthrough, he opened blind eyes, the healed the sick, he calmed storms, he provided for needs, he gave wisdom, he brought good news to the poor, get set captives free, and even raise the dead.

OUR GENEROUS GOD

Acts 10:38..."how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him."

Jesus is so generous. Wherever He went, He brought healing, deliverance, freedom & abundant life.

However, when Jesus walked the earth you needed to be where he was if you have a need. Furthermore, Jesus could only minister to one person at a time.

In **John 16.7**, Jesus said, **“it is better that I am going away”, so that the Holy Spirit would come.**

Jesus promised us that the Holy Spirit would come. According to John 14 & 16, the Holy Spirit ...

- **Would be our helper, our advocate and counsellor, and that He would be with us and will be in us (John 14:15-18)**
- **He would teach you all things and give us God’s peace (John 14:26-27)**
- **He would convict of sin, of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment.” (John 16:8)**
- **He would guide us into all truth and reveal the future. (John 16:13)**
- *Colossians 1:27 Here is the mystery. Christ lives in you, the hope of glory*

What a generous God! He even sent the Holy Spirit to live in us to help us and lead us and guide us. God made a way so that we can have a personal walk with God.

2. God is so generous that He sent The Holy Spirit so that we can have an intimate walk with God.

Concerning the Holy Spirit, Jesus told us in Luke 11:9-13 ...

“...Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Jesus went on and said that... **“your heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”**

After Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sin, he rose again, walked the earth for 40 days and then reminded his followers in Acts 1:4-5 to **“... wait for the gift my Father promised.”** He said, **“you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:4-5)**

In Acts 2:1-4 it says that ... On day of Pentecost Jesus sent the Holy Spirit... **“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”**

THE PROMISE

In Acts 2:17-21, it says... **‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.**

Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Do you see the supernatural generosity of God? He made a way for you and I to be saved. He gave us the promised Holy Spirit, to lead us and guide us. We do not need to face life alone. Our generous God wants to walk the journey with us. You can have a personal relationship with God.

3. God is so generous that He heals and still does miracles.

Acts 3:1-8 ... "One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer – at three in the afternoon. Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.

When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God."

GOD HEALS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS

Acts 5:15-16 ... "As a result of the apostles' work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter's shadow might fall across some of them as he went by. Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed."

Acts 19:11-12 ... "God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled."

4. God is so generous that He delivers the oppressed & He sets free.

Acts 16:16-19 delivered a bound lady from demon possession... Do you know what it is like to be bound by the enemy? The enemy come to kill steal and destroy! (hurt and tormented)

OUR GENEROUS GOD SETS CAPTIVES FREE

"One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved." This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, "I

command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And instantly it left her. Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace." (Acts 16:16-19)

GOD BREAKS CHAINS

"They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks. Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!" The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:23-30)

God is so generous, that He delivers and sets free. GOD HATES SEEING PEOPLE IN BONDAGE!

5. God is so generous that He provides for our needs.

Our God is a generous provider. He is able. Nothing is too difficult for Him. When Jesus walked the earth, he fed 5000 men plus their families with a little boy's lunch, and there were baskets of leftovers. When God provides he always provides in abundance.

When experienced fishermen had been out fishing all night and had caught nothing, Jesus told them to launch out into the deep and cast their nets, and they caught such a miraculous catch that they nearly sank their boats. God can make a way, and he provides in abundance.

When he was at a wedding and they ran out of wine, he turned water into wine. All things are possible with our generous God. He is our provider and wants us to bother him with our problems.

In **Philippians 4:19** Peter said... "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

Acts 4:33 ... "With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were NO NEEDY PERSONS among them."

NLT says ... "there was no poverty among them"

6. God is so generous that He sent The Holy Spirit to empower us to reach out world.

God also wants to empower you.

In Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses ..."

***dynamite power - YOU DO THE NATURAL & ALLOW GOD TO DO THE SUPER!**

The early church Christians empowered by the Spirit were equipped with supernatural gifts and boldness. Every time God did a miracle through them, the early church used the opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus, and eternal destinies were forever changed.

MIRACLES OPEN DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)

The early church used every opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus. They made it a priority to preach the Good News of Jesus to reach the lost. They didn't want anyone to perish.

God is so generous that he saved us. He does miracles. Sent the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us, He is our provider, and to empower us. God is the most generous person I know. Do you know Him?

I don't know why everyone is not healed. You can be healed and still spend eternity in hell. Life on earth is short. Eternity is forever. In heaven there is no more pain, sickness or hurt.

GOD IS SO GENEROUS - HE IS THE MOST GENEROUS PERSON I KNOW

Re-Cap - God is so generous that ...

- He offers forgiveness of sin and eternal life
- He sent the Holy Spirit so that we can have an intimate relationship with God
- He heals and does miracles
- He delivers the oppressed and He sets free
- He provides
- He empowers us to reach out world

PART 2: GOD CALLS YOU & I TO BE GENEROUS:

I challenge you to be a blessing to others. God calls you and I to be generous: Today I want to challenge you to use our...

- TREASURE
- TIME
- TALENTS

THE EARLY CHURCH WAS GENEROUS

Acts 2:42-47 ... “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.

They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.

They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:42-47)

BE GENEROUS

The early church was generous with their...

- Treasure - They gave generously to people in need even selling their possessions
- Time - They made time to spend time with God, to pray & worship Him. They studied God's word and listened to teaching, they had fellowship, met regularly with others, they ate together, they made time to worship God
- Talents - They used their God given gifts and talents to provide money for ministry, they used their supernatural talents to share Jesus with others and they ministered to people

THE GENEROUS CHURCH

In Acts 4:32-37 ... "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet."

What a beautiful picture of a generous Church. There was NO ONE IN NEED!

They shared EVERYTHING they had! What about the church in 2018? What about you and I?

WHAT ABOUT OUR CHURCH?

In our Church we have many who are in need. Are you prepared to use your TIME, TREASURE & TALENTS to help others?

Our Church is currently in deficit by R160 000. Are you prepared to dig deep and be generous so that we can wipe out this deficit?

The early Church was so generous. There was no lack. I challenge you to be generous. Is God calling you to sell some possessions to support our Church? Is God calling you to up your giving?

Many hands make light work: We basically need 160 families to each give R1000 between now and December, over and above their normal giving to clear our debt. Maybe you can do more. I ask you to take a leaf out of the early Churches book and be generous.

I ask you to dig deep and give. I challenge you to help us WIPEOUT OUR DEFICIT!

I also want to encourage you not to withhold your money that God calls you to give. Don't be "snoep"! (a good Afrikaans word!)

ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA

Acts 5:1-11 is a frightening passage... "But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest. Then Peter said,

“Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren’t lying to us but to God!” As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died.

Everyone who heard about it was terrified. Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him. About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, “Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?” “Yes,” she replied, “that was the price.” And Peter said, “How could the two of you even think of conspiring to test the Spirit of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too.” Instantly, she fell to the floor and died.

When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.” (Acts 5:1-11)

I do not want to put anyone on a guilt trip. It was not that Ananias & Sapphira held onto some of the money. It was that they lied to God. God loves a cheerful giver, but we need to honour God. We need to give what God asks us to give.

Re-Cap...

In Acts 2... the early believers SHARE EVERYTHING

In Acts 4... there were NO NEEDY PERSONS among them.

1. I want to encourage you to be generous with your TREASURE:

Luke 6:37-38... Jesus said ...“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

What are you sowing into your life? Galatians 6:7 says “A man reaps what he sows.”

Sow good seed and you will reap a good harvest. Sow junk and you will reap a rubbish dump.

If you plant an apple seed, what do you get back?

You don’t only get an apple. You get an apple tree, that will produce many apples each season.

God can take the little you (a few seeds) have and multiply it (into trees that produce many fruit). God’s Kingdom does not work in addition, but in multiplication. Whatever you plant, will come back to you in abundance. SO, BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR TREASURE.

What seeds are you planting? An apple seed will not produce an orange tree. You will always harvest what you plant.

2 Corinthians 9:6 says: “Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.

If you plant debt, you will harvest stress. If you plant weeds you will reap a harvest of destruction. But, if you plant good seeds, you will harvest an abundant flourishing crop of blessing.

So, let me encourage you - Sow good seeds!

Isaiah 32:20 ... "the LORD will greatly bless his people. Wherever they plant seed, bountiful crops will spring up."

I challenge you to be generous with your treasure...

HONOUR GOD WITH YOUR TREASURE

Proverbs 3:9-10, says: "Honor the Lord with your wealth (MONEY), with the first fruits of all your crops (YOUR BEST); then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.(ABUNDANT OVERFLOW)"

WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

Jesus said in Matthew 6:21 ... "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

According to Jesus, your heart is connected to your treasure. God is not after your money. He doesn't need your money. He is all powerful and is all sufficient, but, I am 100% sure that God is after your heart!

So where is your treasure? For there your heart will also be!

YOU CAN LIVE A GENEROUS BLESSED LIFE

Sow good seed. Be generous. This is the pathway to The Blessed Life.

BE GENEROUS

Proverbs 11:24-25 says: "Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."

What an incredible principle from God's word. Wow!!! Do you want to prosper? Do you want to be refreshed? Then ... GIVE FREELY, BE GENEROUS & REFRESH OTHERS!

While we don't give to get, God's word is filled with scriptures that show God's abundant provision and blessing, when you choose to be generous.

GIVE GENEROUSLY... GIVE CHEERFULLY

2 Corinthians 9: 6-11 says..."Remember this – a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others."

I want to encourage you to be generous with your treasure ... WHEN YOU GIVE YOUR HEART AND TREASURE TO GOD, AND WHEN YOU SOW GOOD SEED, YOU CAN LIVE THE BLESSED LIFE! WHEN YOU GIVE FREELY, ARE GENEROUS AND REFRESH

OTHERS, IT WILL RETURN TO YOU... GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER AND ROLLING OVER.

BE A BLESSING

Acts 20:35 ... "You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Put God 1st. Love Him. Don't serve money. Don't get into bondage to money. Be generous.

2.I want to encourage you to be generous with your TIME

Consider tithing your time

- i. Take 10% of your time and give it to God - 2 ½ hours per day or 17 hours a week
- ii. Quiet time - get to know God better (pray & read Gods word & wait on God)
- iii. Community groups - meet up with fellow believers
- iv. Reach out to the lost and minister to those in need

Be generous with your time: Be available and use your God given opportunities.

TAKE TIME OUT TO FELLOWSHIP & TO SHARE JESUS

Acts 5:12 ... "The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple in the area known as Solomon's Colonnade."

Acts 5:42 ... "And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah.""

3.I also want to encourage you to be generous with your TALENTS

- The early Church used their Gifts and Talents for God - Will you use your talents for God?
- Be available - God want to use you to impact the world
- Yes, God can use your natural talents, your experiences and your profession
- But God has also given you and I supernatural gifts and talents.

GOD CAN EMPOWER YOU

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in ... Acts 1:8

The early church where often looked upon as supernatural superheroes, the way God used them...

- Acts 4:13 "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."
- Acts 5:13 "all the people had high regard for them."
- Acts 14:11 "These men are gods in human form!"
- Acts 17:6 "Paul and Silas have turned the rest of the work upside down."

God still does miracles today. He just uses his children to be his hands and feet.

ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS WITH GOD

...Remember what Jesus said in John 14:12 ... *“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask (declare) in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”* (John 14:12-14)

What has God got in store for you? Be available God wants to use you to reach our world and share Jesus.

Re-Cap: God calls you and I to be generous. Use your Time, Talents and Treasure for God

Conclusion:

- God is the most generous person I have ever known. He is a supernatural God. Nothing is impossible with Him.
- I want to encourage you to be generous with your TREASURE, TIME & TALENTS for God. You will be amazed and dazzled at what he will do in you and through you.

Get to know our Generous God, and use your Time, Talents & Treasures for His Kingdom.