



I See It Differently | James Powell | 12.01.2024

Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

- **Share a high and a low from last week.**
- **How was your Thanksgiving weekend? Share any fun traditions or highlights!**

GROW

Welcome to the final week of Kingdom Builders! This week, Pastor James delivered an inspiring message, *I See It Differently*, challenging us to rethink our perspectives on giving and generosity. He shared five new lenses through which we can better understand and live out the fullness of God's love for us.

In 2 Corinthians 8:7-12, Paul reminds us that giving isn't about obligation—it's about the sincerity of our love for God and others. We are invited to move beyond just being inspired to give and instead embrace a giving mindset that is consistent, intentional, spiritual, and ultimately surrendered to God.

This message encourages us to reflect on two important questions: What does our giving say about what we believe about God? and What kind of legacy do we want to leave behind?

So, as we close this series, take a moment to consider—what legacy do you want your generosity to build?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:7-12 NIV, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 NIV

- **After hearing four messages on generosity and giving, take a moment to reflect. How has your heart and perspective around this topic grown or changed over these past four weeks?**
- **Are there any areas where you still feel stuck, hesitant, bitter, etc., regarding giving? Explain.**
- **How might our approach to giving reflect our understanding of God's character as Jehovah Jireh (provider) and El Shaddai (more than enough)?**
- **What did God reveal to you through the scriptures above, especially verses 11-12?**

M O V E

Pastor James pointed out that knowing the right answer and living the right solution are two different things. We see this in James 2. *“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” (v.14-17)*

We are saved through faith in Christ alone, but the great call for us as Christians is not that we know about Jesus, but that we become more and more like him each and every day through our love for him and others.

To move us from a place of knowing/believing to a place of living/thriving, Pastor James provides five lenses for leaving a legacy.

1. The Initial (Inspired) Giving Lens
 - a. Feeling called to meet someone's need in a moment of desperation.
2. Consistent Giving Lens
 - a. Giving out of opportunity rather than obligation. Generosity becomes a consistent act of faithful obedience in our lives.
3. Intentional Giving Lens
 - a. When we live with intentionality, momentary feelings, setbacks, and costs no longer hold power over our decisions because we know that God's plan for our lives spans far beyond what's happening in this isolated moment.
4. Spiritual Giving Lens
 - a. When we stop listening to the Holy Spirit in our lives, our perspective on finances can easily shift to one of fear and scarcity. But when we prayerfully invite the Holy Spirit to speak into this area—asking, "Holy Spirit, what would you have me do?"—our finances transform into a source of joy and freedom.
5. Surrendered Giving Lens
 - a. This is the ultimate goal: living with a mindset of surrendered giving. It reminds us that we are not the first to give—everything we have and everything we are was first given to us by God.

2 Samuel 24:24 NIV

- **What lens are you currently using when it comes to giving? What are some practical ways in which we can shift from an 'initial giving' mindset to a 'surrendered giving' mindset in our lives? Explain.**
- **How is it possible to be a “cheerful” (2 Corinthians 9:7) and “sacrificial” (2 Samuel 24:24) giver at the same time? What would it look like for you to make a “costly sacrifice” with great “joy” in your own life? Explain.**

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-8 NIV

Imagine that many years from now, long after you're gone, you left a legacy so great that the words from 1 Thessalonians 1:2-8 were actually written about you and your faithfulness. Take a moment to reflect on the profound impact being described. Things like:

- "We thank God for you." (V.2)
 - "We mention you in our prayers." (V.2)
 - "We remember before God your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (V.3)
 - "God has chosen you." (V.4)
 - "You were an imitator of the Lord." (V.6)
 - "You welcomed the message (the fullness of the gospel into your heart) in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit." (V.6)
 - "You became a model to all believers." (V.7.)
 - "The Lord's message rang out from you." V.8)
 - "Your faith in God has become known everywhere." (V.8)
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- **If you died tomorrow, what would be included in your obituary? Would any of the statements above be included? What would your legacy be? Explain.**

 - **Do you believe you are, or could become, the kind of person others would say these things about? What does your answer reveal about how you see yourself and what you believe about God's love for you? Take a moment to reflect and share your thoughts with the group.**

 - **Take a few moments on your own to read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-8 a couple of times. As you read, imagine these words were written about you, and ask God to speak to your heart. What line stood out to you the most? Why? What might God be asking you to surrender, lay down, or walk away from? What is God inviting or calling you into? After reflecting, share your thoughts with the group.**

P R A Y

Close the session by praying for each other, asking God for wisdom and courage to trust Him more fully with finances and to grow in generosity.