

DEVO 6

MADE FOR GENEROSITY

"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." **2 Corinthians 9:7-8**

Yesterday was a snowy Sunday morning. The roads were icy, the breeze was freezing, and my bed was warm. As is my custom on every Lord's day though, I showered, dressed, and bought donuts for the middle schoolers at Tim Horton's on my way into Friendship Church. I was expecting that upon my arrival I would have to shovel and lay down salt, but much to my surprise the snow had already been shoveled and the salt had melted the walkways before I arrived. Someone had beat me to it!

I asked Pastor Scott who had done this and said he didn't know either, it was finished before he arrived as well. What a blessing! Now the pastors were able to focus on prayer, preparing communion, visiting with congregants, and making sure service was ready. As I was doing just that, a congregant approached me with a Christmas card and joked about not setting it down because there was something "in it for me". I tried to hide my excitement, as this year had been a very tight Christmas, and thanked them before sneaking away to see what my prize was.

I was expecting a gift card, sometimes \$10 for coffee, or \$30 for dinner. The most I've ever received was \$200 to Aldi's, that was a great week! We normally only spend \$150 a week on groceries so this was a special occasion for the Royers. I could never have been prepared for what was waiting for me though. Five Hundred Dollars. Five Hundred Dollars Cash. Five one hundred dollar bills accompanied a thoughtful card blessing me and my family.

This would cover presents for my entire family. Each kid gets 3 presents that total up to \$100 and both sets of parents get \$50 a person. \$500 in total. Usually this requires planning, budgeting, shopping, and scrounging, but not this year. This year God provided for us through the selfless generosity of one of His children. Hallelujah!!

PRAYER FOCUS:

Thank you God for making your people generous! Thank you for the giving nature of your family and help me to be a cheerful giver. Help me to care for your children in any and every way possible. May every member of your family be richly blessed and loved this holiday season.

OTHER VERSES FOR STUDY:

Matthew 6:19-24 | Proverbs 11:24-25 | Acts 20:31-35