

Our Handbook for Business, the Bible

Generosity in business

And start with a story...

"Once upon a time" there were two retailers each owning one shop: I knew them both.

Owner A was a stingy man who offered his staff a deal; if December sales exceeded \$x they would get a bonus; a sale on the 31st got them over target but no bonus was paid because that customer's money came through on Jan 2, a technicality but it upset the staff! That business eventually went broke.

Owner B was a generous man: the week he opened his first shop sales were under \$1,000. As the business grew he too instituted a bonus plan; one Christmas a salesperson received a \$40k bonus! Today he owns 8 stores and business is booming.

The moral of the story and Biblical truth: Generosity leads to prosperity in life & business.

My counsel for business owners:

Generosity is reflected in our giving, serving, caring, going the extra mile. It nurtures relationships, adds value, and puts the needs of others ahead of our own.

- Consider it not as a cost but as an investment.

And understand these principles:

1. Money is not the only thing we can give; we have product, time, expertise, employment, encouragement
2. Generosity doesn't stop in tough times because it's a lifestyle, not an event...it's not only what we do...it's who we are.
3. Receiving always follows generous giving and often it's Jesus who repays, in His way & in His timing; and regularly, the receiving arrives just when it's needed most.

Never forget that every good and perfect gift is from God above (James 1:17); and He gave the world the ultimate gift at Calvary...and look at the outcome, the fruit, since then!

When we are generous, good fruit follows...as the multi-shop owner discovered. And when generosity is withheld, there is also fruit as the stingy owner found out to his regret!

The Bible, our Handbook counsel for today, Proverbs 11:24, Message Version...

"The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller..."

Other Scriptures (NKJV):

Proverbs 21:13, "Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry...and not be heard"

Ecc. 5:9, "Moreover the profit of the land is for all; even the king is served from the field"

Ecc. 5:13, "There is a severe evil...I have seen under the sun: riches kept for their owner to his hurt"

Acts 20:35, "...the words of the Lord Jesus...it is more blessed to give than to receive"

Philippians 2:3, "...in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself"

Galatians 6:7, "...God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap"