

Our Handbook for Business, the Bible

Generosity

Let's 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: one December he who offered his staff a deal; if sales exceeded \$x they would get a bonus; a sale on the 31st meant they hit target but there was no bonus because the customer paid on Jan 2, a technicality but it upset the staff! In time, that business failed.

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 his top salesman received a \$40k bonus! Today he owns 8 stores and business is booming.

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

My counsel for you as a business owner:

Generosity is reflected in our giving, serving, caring, going the extra mile; it nurtures relationships because it puts the needs of others ahead of our own.

- Consider generosity, not as a cost but as an investment.

And understand these three principles:

1. Money is not the only thing we can give; we have product, time, expertise, employment, encouragement; we can also share a verse, or our testimony or pray for a person in need
 2. Generosity doesn't stop in tough times because it's a lifestyle, not an event...it's not what we do...it's **who we are**
 3. Receiving always follows generous giving and often it's Jesus who repays, in His way and in His timing; and regularly, the receiving arrives just when it's needed most
- Never forget the gift God gave us (**John 3:16**) as His ultimate act of love & generosity; and consider the outcome of that gift, the fruit, and the receiving since then!

When we are generous, good fruit always 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, 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"