

I. REVIEW – WHERE ARE WE THUS FAR?

- A. In this season we are setting vision for CFG. We have been focusing on 4 heart standards that are built upon our main core foundation.

One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple. ⁵ For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. Ps. 27: 4-5

- B. Core foundation.

1. ***People of Presence*** – Our desire like David’s is to be people who host and carry God’s presence. We are not pursuing a form, we are pursuing a person.

- C. Our four (4) heart values. These foundational heart values point to our identity as a people. We can say in essence, “This is who we are!” These foundational values will drive our activity and function in this city.

1. ***People of Prayer*** – “Gaze on beauty of the Lord” (devotion); “Inquire in His temple” (intercession and spiritual warfare).
2. ***People Spirit filled, Spirit led*** – We are empowered by the Spirit, and led in our destiny and mission.
3. ***People of Joyful, Happy Holiness*** – We are set apart for God, holy because of love.
4. ***People with a Generous Spirit*** – We are willing to give out of what we have.

- D. These values are our “CFG Family Character.” We joyfully practice them, they act as our bonding glue, we receive them as our identity, and call one another to return to them when necessary.

II. GOD IS VERY RICH

- A. God is very rich. His wealth exists in every arena known and unknown to man. God’s wealth is clearly revealed in that all things were made by him, for him and through him. All things belong to God.

The earth is the LORD’s, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. Ps. 24:1

⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. Col. 1:15-18

Jesus...upholding all things by the word of His power...Heb. 1:3b

B. God is eternal, so therefore, His wealth is eternal.

⁸ ‘The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,’ says the LORD of hosts. Hag. 2: 8

For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine. Ps. 50:10-11

C. God’s wealth does not extend only to financial resources. God’s wealth is evident in every aspect of life he created. God is rich in character, nature, resources, etc.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us...Eph. 2:4

⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” ⁴³ And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” Luke 23:41-43

“Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.” John 8: 10-11

Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: ³ Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, ⁴ Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,... For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; ¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. Ps. 103: 2-4, 11-13

D. When ‘God gives’, he does so ‘out of...’ or ‘according to...’ what he has. God cannot be depleted, diminished or exhausted.

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,...¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man...Eph. 3: 14-16

E. God withholds nothing from the earth in order to perpetuate and sustain life, and yet, he uses the natural processes of life to create eternal conversations between himself and man. This is a divine paradox.

“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isa. 55: 10-11

¹³ When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 2Chron. 7: 13-14

III. GOD IS GENEROUS IN SPIRIT

A. God is generous in spirit. This generosity is part of the glory of His character. God is generous not because he is rich and can afford to be generous; but is generous because it is His nature.

¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:19

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us...Eph. 3:20

B. In many ways we can say that God is “open handed.”

You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing. Ps. 145:12

C. God’s greatest and most generous gift came wrapped in the humanity of his Son Jesus Christ.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:16-17

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. James 1: 17

D. Jesus is generous like the Father is generous.

⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. 2Cor. 8:9

E. When Jesus and the Father demonstrate their generous spirit, they do not find fault or shame us in our need; and they give in order to produce faith and maturity in our relationship with them.

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. James 1:5

F. David’s prayer of repentance in Ps. 51 shows how much he trusted and depended on God’s generous spirit.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Ps. 51:12

G. Jesus and his Father are so generous in their assessments on the lives of those who repent and don’t give up on God. For example, consider the testimony of God regarding Lot and David.

⁷ and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)— ⁹ then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment...2Peter 2:7-9

³⁶ “For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers...Acts 13:36

1. It seems unjust to reconcile the failures of Lot and David but God sees the heart.

- H. Father God evaluates us over the entirety of our lives. He does not take one broken moment of weakness or sin, and relegate us to hell. He is rich in mercy and offers us many opportunities to turn from our rebellion and hard heartedness.

IV. CFG, KNOWN AS A 'GENEROUS PEOPLE'

- A. I am calling those who call CFG their home church to embrace the call to a generous spirit.
- B. Generous:
 - 1. With our resources – time, money, skills, talents, strength,...
 - 2. In our nature/character – mercy, forgiveness, repentance, meekness, humility, wisdom,...
 - 3. Sacrificial as led by Holy Spirit, giving 'out of' or 'according to' what we have.