



THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE GOSPEL

PHILIPPIANS 4:14-20

The Fruit of Generosity

Small Group Study Guide

The primary focus of this paragraph is seen in Paul sharing with the Philippian church his thankfulness for the generosity they have shown him throughout his ministry, and the current gift they have given which continues to show their love for him. Their generosity also illustrates the depth of commitment in the ***Fellowship of the Gospel***. This study will focus on this one central thought: Those in the ***Fellowship of the Gospel*** will be those who bear the fruit of generosity.

¹J. A. Motyer, *The Bible Speaks Today: Message of Philipians* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1984), 215.

1. “Paul had enough because other Christians contributed to his need, and he was glad to acknowledge his indebtedness.”¹ Identify how each of the following can be a way to contribute to the need of other Christians and advance the gospel.
 - Weekly Tithes and Offerings
 - The Deacons’ Fund
2. If God works through the generosity of Christians to meet the needs of other Christians and advance the work of the Gospel, what are the reasons for why Christians are so hesitant or resistant to give more?*
3. Outside of the avenues of financially giving to the weekly offering and the monthly Deacons’ Fund, what are other ways you can show generosity in meeting the needs of other Christians and advancing the work of the Gospel through the ministry of Hilltown?
4. In what ways is generosity a blessing in the life of the recipient? How is it a blessing in the life of the giver?

Don't Forget:

Discuss the Sermon Notes from this week

5. The word “profit” can also be interpreted “fruit”. The same word is used in Philippians 1:11 in the middle of Paul’s prayer for the Philippian church. According to our current passage (4:14-20) and this opening prayer (1:3-11) explain how Paul shows that one fruit of an **ACTS church** is generosity.

6. Paul equates the generosity of the Philippian church to that of worshipful sacrifice to God. How is generosity in giving an act of worship? In what ways can giving not be worshipful?

7. In your own words, what is the promise given in Philippians 4:19?

- Is this a promise to only meet our financial needs? If not, what are some other types of needs God supplies?
- Key to properly applying this promise is understanding “need”. As a review from last week’s study, what is the difference between a need and a want?
- What is to be our response to this promise (v. 20)? Why is this an important point to remember?

BIBLE MEMORY:

*And my God
 will supply
 all your needs
 according to
 His riches in glory
 in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:19

8. The concepts of “giving and receiving” and “profit” and “increase” are all accounting terms. This is similar to the type of language Paul used in Philippians 3:7-11.

- So then, how is showing generosity a means to increasing in the ultimate “profit” and “gain” Paul speaks about in Philippians 3:7-11?
- If showing generosity shows an increase in this ultimate profit or gain, what then does a lack of generosity exhibit? Explain your answer.

9. Take some time and pray. Ask God to reveal in your heart if you are a generous person. See, what Paul says is this: It is not necessarily about the size of the gift but about the size of the heart behind the gift. On a scale of 1 to 10, assess how generous a person you are. Why did you mark where you did?

