November 28, 2026

The Glory Belongs To God

November Series: Live Generously
Week Focus: Gratitude With Open Hands

Scripture – Matthew 5:16 (NIV) – *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*

Devotional Reflection

THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY IS NOT TO MAKE OURSELVES LOOK GOOD, BUT TO HONOR THE GOD WHO HAS SHOWN US GRACE. In Matthew 5:16, Jesus teaches His followers to live in ways that lead others to glorify their heavenly Father. Good deeds can become visible expressions of faith, but their ultimate purpose is not personal recognition. The glory belongs to God, whose grace is at work in His people.

Jesus also warns against performing righteous acts simply to be admired (Matthew 6:1). These teachings are not contradictory. Matthew 5:16 emphasizes the purpose of our good works, while Matthew 6:1 confronts the motive behind them. We may sometimes serve publicly, and at other times quietly, but our desire should remain the same: to honor God rather than promote ourselves. **FAITHFUL SERVICE DOES NOT REQUIRE PERSONAL RECOGNITION.**

This matters because generosity can become entangled with our desire for appreciation. We may feel disappointed when our efforts go unnoticed or when someone does not respond as expected. Yet Christian compassion is not a transaction in which kindness purchases gratitude, loyalty, or attention. We serve because God's grace has changed our hearts, not because others owe us something. **THE GIFT MAY PASS THROUGH OUR HANDS, BUT THE GLORY BELONGS TO GOD.**

As this week draws toward its conclusion, examine what motivates your acts of service. Would you still help if no one recognized your contribution? Could you rejoice when a genuine need is met without receiving credit? These questions invite us to grow in humility rather than condemn ourselves for imperfect motives. Ask God to shape your heart so that your generosity reflects His love and directs attention toward Him.

🔥 FOCUS FOR TODAY

Christ-centered generosity seeks God's glory rather than personal recognition.

🛠️ PRACTICE

- **Examine your motives.** Consider whether your desire to serve is influenced by a need for recognition or appreciation.
- **Serve without seeking credit.** If an appropriate opportunity arises, offer encouragement or practical help without drawing unnecessary attention to yourself.
- **Give God thanks.** Acknowledge His grace as the source of your ability and willingness to serve.

🙏 PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for every opportunity to reflect Your love through my life. Forgive me when I become more concerned with receiving recognition than with honoring You. Purify my motives and teach me to serve with humility, sincerity, and compassion. Help me remain faithful whether my actions are noticed or unseen. May others experience genuine care through my service, and may my words and actions point beyond me to Your goodness. The gift may pass through my hands, but the glory belongs to You alone. In Jesus' name, Amen.

✍️ REFLECTION QUESTION

Where do I need to release my desire for recognition so that my service more fully honors God?

TODAY'S TRANSFORMATION TRUTH

The gift may pass through our hands, but the glory belongs to God.