

## People touched by God become givers

*“From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life”  
—Arthur Ashe*

### **People touched by God want to give**

When God touches a person there is an impartation of His nature, character and power.

- The nature of God is imparted
- The love of God is awakened
- The faith of God is released

**Notice the people listed below all had an encounter with God and became generous givers:**

### **Jacob**

#### **Genesis 28:20-22 (NLT)**

<sup>20</sup> Then Jacob made this vow: “If God will indeed be with me and protect me on this journey, and if he will provide me with food and clothing, <sup>21</sup> and if I return safely to my father’s home, then the Lord will certainly be my God. <sup>22</sup> And this memorial pillar I have set up will become a place for worshiping God, and I will present to God a tenth of everything he gives me.”

### **Women who supported Jesus Ministry**

#### **Luke 8:1-3 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> Soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns and villages, preaching and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him, <sup>2</sup> along with some women he had healed and from whom he had cast out evil spirits. Among them were Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons; <sup>3</sup> Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod’s business manager; Susanna; and many others who were contributing their own resources to support Jesus and his disciples.

### **Woman “known as a sinful woman”**

#### **Mark 14:3-9 (NLT)**

<sup>3</sup> Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy. While he was eating, a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard. She broke open the jar and poured the perfume over his head. <sup>4</sup> Some of those at the table were indignant. “Why waste such expensive perfume?” they asked. <sup>5</sup> “It could have been sold for a year’s wages and the money given to the poor!” So they scolded her harshly. <sup>6</sup> But Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. Why criticize her for doing such a good thing to me? <sup>7</sup> You will always have the poor among you, and you can help them whenever you want to. But you will not always have me.

<sup>8</sup> She has done what she could and has anointed my body for burial ahead of time. <sup>9</sup> I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed."

**The primitive Church was experiencing the powerful and tangible presence of God and therefore the people were generous.**

### **Generosity seen in early church**

This was not an organized appeal that came from the apostles but rather a spontaneous eruption of generosity that emanated from the tangibility of the generous nature of God.

#### **Acts 2:42-47 (NLT)**

<sup>42</sup> All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. <sup>44</sup> And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. <sup>45</sup> They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. <sup>46</sup> They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— <sup>47</sup> all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

#### **Acts 4:32-37 (NLT)**

<sup>32</sup> All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.....  
.....<sup>37</sup> He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.

#### **Some final observations:**

1. God is generous
2. When touched by God something of the nature of God gets into us – (as He is so are we)