

A Surrendered Life *is a* Generous Life

by Todd Harper

Due to my work with Generous Giving, I have had the unique opportunity to spend meaningful time with some profoundly generous people.

Over the past 10 years, I have often reflected on common attributes of those who seem to be outliers in their expression of generosity. Recently, I have concluded that one of the common attributes of every radically generous person I know is a surrendered life to God.

To surrender is to submit or yield in favor of another. To surrender our lives to God is to yield our lives, hopes, and agendas to God for Him to use as He sees fit. If we have surrendered our lives, hopes, and agendas to our Father in heaven, then surrendering our resources is a natural expression of that surrender.

Years ago, just before Dr. Bright's home going, I had the privilege of interviewing Bill and Vonette Bright, the founders of Campus Crusade for Christ. They are two of the most generous people I have ever met, and during our interview I had the opportunity to ask them questions about their journey of generosity and how they came to the decision to give lavishly out of relatively modest resources. I will likely never forget Dr. Bright's answer. He looked at me sincerely and simply said,

"It is our view of God. Our view of God influences everything we do. Our view of God is such that we have learned we can trust Him implicitly." The Brights' unconditional trust in the goodness of God and His provision for them freed them to live completely surrendered lives, which led to a lifestyle of radical generosity.

So, how can we increase our ability to surrender? We can practice generosity. The practice of generosity can enhance our ability to trust God and demonstrate our willingness to surrender our agenda for God's agenda. I say practice because giving is something we can practice repetitively and grow in over time. Every time I choose to give something away, I can practice John's the Baptist's prayer in John 3:30, "He must become greater; I must become less."

Generosity is a practical expression of my trust in God's provision and my surrender to his will and provision for my life. Jim Elliott's words encourage me to more fully embrace this mentality of surrender: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."



Experience the Joy.