

The Practice of Generosity Acts 2:43-47, 4:31-35

The practice of generosity is a community practice.

For reflection: What are FBBC's stories of generosity?

Practices:

- Richard Foster says that the disciplines (practices) allow us to place ourselves before God so that he can transform us – they are a way of sowing to the Spirit – they put us where God can work within us and transform us.
- They are practices that we engage in so that the Holy Spirit can work through them, to shape us and form us into the image of Jesus.
- The emphasis, or focus, of spiritual practices is on the formation of a people, who are on God's mission, in a particular context (like FBBC).
- This formational aspect is necessary because our culture is continually attempting to form us to reflect and live out false narratives of our world like individualism and consumerism.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Acts 2 & 4

- The gift of the Holy Spirit led not only to inspired preaching and teaching but also to Christian fellowship and generosity, patterned on Jesus' teaching to love one another.
- They held all things in common (koinos). They thought of their possessions as being available to help their needy brothers and sisters.
- The way in which Jesus' disciples were to love one another was the way in which he had loved them, by sacrificing oneself for the good of the other.

To consider: What will the practice of generosity look like for FBBC?

"The ekklesia is what God is up to in the world: re-creating a people whose corporate life tells the world what the death and resurrection of the Messiah is all about. This people, the "Church" lives the story, embodies the story, tells the story."

Suggested reading: *Urban Spirituality: Embodying God's Mission in the Neighborhood* by Karina Kreminski (Urban Loft Publishers, 2018)