

Proverbs 31:20

She extends her hand... Yes, she reaches out..



Generous eye!

[generous adj. 1. liberal in giving or sharing; unselfish 2. free from meanness or smallness of mind or character; magnanimous 3. large; abundant; ample 4. rich or strong in flavor 5. fertile; prolific: generous soil.]

Prov. 31:20

She extends her hands to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. (NKJV)

Life in the "Unselfish Zone"

As I look over this whole section of scripture again ([Proverbs 31:10-31](#)), I cannot escape the generosity of this woman. There is much more than just the one verse that I have highlighted for, as we see above, generosity is much more than just giving monetary things. It is living life in the 'unselfish zone'. It does not have conditions or boundaries for it is not driven by fear but by love itself! Take a look for yourself and highlight every verse that expresses this limitless kind of love. Here are some of the verses that stood out to me:

- 1) she 'does her husband good' (that's quite a phrase!) all the time - not just when she feels like it (vs. 12)
- 2) she willingly works (vs. 13)
- 3) she rises early to prepare for her house (vs. 15)
- 4) she extends, stretches out, reaches out to the needy & the poor (vs. 20)
- 5) she is not afraid (vs. 21)
- 6) she speaks with wisdom & blessing (vs. 26)
- 7) she is full of life because she lives in the fear of God (vs. 30)

In other words...

She is generous with her 'all':

She is the definition of generous!

- her attitude
- her time
- her resources & affection
- her faith & trust
- her words
- and most important... her surrender to God!

Love with 'all'

As I was pondering this amazing woman, I noticed the little word 'all' in verse 12. You see, her 'amazingness' is not in the things that she does (I thought we all might need to be reminded of that). There is something more here than what meets the eye, and I think that it is found in this little word.

Hear what Jesus says in [Mark 12:28-34](#) when he is being questioned by one of the scribes of the day about what the greatest commandment was. Perhaps you are familiar with His answer: "Love the Lord Your God out of all your heart, out of all your soul, out of all your understanding (mind), and out of all your strength..."

I found myself asking just what 'all' means. When I give all, have I really given everything? What is it? Then my mind starting going in all directions! Athletes seem to be able to pull something extra out when the stakes are higher. I have read countless survivor stories in Reader's Digest that suggest that when push comes to shove, we have more in us than we thought possible. In fact, I'm sure that my own perception of myself is probably not all that accurate for I fall in places that I thought I would stand, and excel where I thought for sure I would fail! (sounds like Romans 7 doesn't it?!) I thought of [1 Corinthians 10:13](#) where we are reminded that God will not give us more than we can handle – but, His idea of what we can handle is usually more than we think of ourselves!

"I believe that we can give our 'all' at any moment,

...but we should never be satisfied as we can always grow and expand to be used of God for more.

I believe that we can give our 'all' at any moment, but that we should never be satisfied as we can always grow and expand to be used of God to give more.

"Whoever has a generous eye will be blessed." Proverbs 22:9

Listen to what God promises about generous people:

- *Our work and everything we put our hand to will be blessed ([Deuteronomy 15:10](#))*
- *Their children are blessed. ([Psalm 37:26](#))*
- *Good will come to them. ([Psalm 112:56](#))*
- *They will prosper & be refreshed. ([Proverbs 11:25](#))*
- *Whoever has a **generous eye** will be blessed. ([Proverbs 22:9](#))*
- *Generosity begets generosity! ([Luke 6:38](#))*
- *We reap generously! ([2 Corinthians 9:6](#))*

"See the generosity of God passed to Jesus, passed to us."

This type of love ... generosity ... can only reach what it was intended to be through God working in us. God is love and He is our source for extravagant loving. Therefore, it behooves us to ask for His love (His Spirit) to be breathed on us, to dwell within us, and pour continually from us.

The LORD is 'abounding in love'!

- *Over & over in scripture we read this about God: "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness and forgiveness ([Exodus 34:6](#), [Numbers 14:18](#), [Nehemiah 9:17](#), [Psalm 86:15](#), [Psalm 103:8](#), [Joel 2:13](#), [Jonah 4:2](#))*

Jesus demonstrated God's generosity!

- *Jesus only did what His Father told Him to do. Every action, word spoken, and motivation was coming directly from the heart of God... He displayed the generous eye of His Father. ([Romans 5:8](#), [John 12:50](#), [John 14:31](#), [John 15:9](#))*

Then He gave us His Spirit, and sent us to love as He does!

- *So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. [John 20:21-22](#) ([John 15:1-17](#), [2 Corinthians 9:8](#))*
- *The world will know Jesus by our love—our generosity! ([Philippians 1:9-11](#))*

"So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. Learn to love appropriately ... Live a lover's life, circumspect and exemplary, a life Jesus will be proud of: bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all, getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God."

Philippians 1:9-11 MSG

So, how can we do this?

- *Love with no boundaries and conditions – take a risk.*
- *Love without expectation of return, except for the reward that God has promised you.*
- *Ask God to show you the need*
- *Stretch out your hand and He will show you what you have to give. Be generous, give 'til it hurts & inconveniences you.*
- *Cultivate your heart. Feed on the Word of God, His presence, and submit to His ways.*
- *Ask God to fill you continually with His Spirit giving you His wisdom and power.*

"Be generous; give till it hurts & inconveniences you. Go the extra mile, give the better coat, love more. Wear the generosity of God and Jesus with great joy and great representation!"

[READ & BE INSPIRED BY 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9 MSG](#)