

Your Plan for Strategic Generosity

If I had to choose my top ten favorite quotes of Jesus, this one would probably be near the top of the list:

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

Why do I love this quote so much? Because culture tells us it's more blessed to *get*, but Jesus knows the truth: it's better to be generous.

Jesus didn't just say these words. He *lived* them. He gave His time, resources, and even His life to serve others.

While we can't outgive Jesus, we can follow His example. How? By pursuing a lifestyle of generosity. I say pursue because **we know that people don't accidentally become generous people.**

Instead, each of us must pre-decide: **I will be generous.**

True generosity takes faith. It isn't random or driven by emotion. So, each of us needs to create a generosity game plan.

That's why I put together these three questions to help you become strategically generous.

Now, these questions alone can't turn you into a generous person. As I said above, true generosity takes faith, so it's up to you to take a bold step to become generous.

Let's get started.

1. Who gets your *first*?

On payday, who gets the first of your money? Maybe it's a loan payment, savings account, or grocery bill. While those answers make sense, they don't set us up for a generous lifestyle.

The Bible invites us to pursue the tithe (Malachi 3:10). The tithe is the first 10% of our income we give back to God through the local church.

The tithe is a bold statement that you refuse to live in fear of not having enough. Instead, you trust God to provide for you each day.

I invite you to add up your income and write down what 10% looks like each month. Then, pray the example prayer below.

10% of my monthly income is: _____

Pray:

Dear God, help me to become generous like You. Help me to trust You with the tithe, even when it feels scary. And help me to experience Your presence as I pursue a lifestyle of generosity. In Jesus' name, amen.

2. What do you need?

While the rest of the world chases expensive, name-brand status symbols, followers of Jesus pursue simplicity. Why? Because the less we spend on what we don't need, the more we can give away!

So, what do you need? These are the essentials. Not coffee on the way to work, a Netflix subscription, or that thing you've wanted for months that finally went on sale.

Things like groceries, mortgage or rent, essential bills, and other necessities go on this list. Then, write down how much each item costs you each month.

3. What will you do with the rest?

You know where your first 10% is going and what you need to get through each day. Now what?

Depending on your situation, you have some choices to make.

- Maybe the numbers don't add up and you don't have money left over each month. That's scary, but try to avoid letting fear consume you. Instead, ask God for peace and a path toward financial health.

- Or perhaps the numbers add up, but all of your excess goes toward saving for the future. While it's wise to save, it's unwise to let fear make your financial decisions. If this is you, I'd invite you to ask God for greater trust in Him. He is our safety net and source of provision, not our bank account.
- Or maybe you have extra money but simply haven't pre-decided to be generous. If that's you, remember the words of Jesus, "it's more blessed to give than to receive." I want to invite you to receive that blessing by giving above and beyond 10%, not just for you but for the people around you.

What step can you take toward becoming a generous person? Maybe it's asking God for financial help or planning to simplify your life. Or He might call you to begin trusting Him with the tithe. No matter what it is, don't fight it. Write it down and receive it as an opportunity to experience God's blessings.

I want you to be blessed.

I hope you take a bold, generous step this week. Why? Because I want you to be blessed.

- Blessed with the opportunity to represent God to a hurting world
- Blessed with ways to leave a lasting legacy
- Blessed with a growing relationship with Jesus

Don't wait. Make a plan to be generous and step into the blessings He has waiting for you.

If you want to explore what the Bible has to say about generosity, check out www.go2.lc/generousplan