



Joyful Generosity

We Give Because He Gave it All

A generous spirit comes from the knowledge that God is the creator, sustainer, and provider of everything. We owe Him everything because of His generous gift of life and eternal life. Our focus is not on stockpiling more and more of the stuff in this world, but on storing up treasures in heaven, because these are eternal. We place our full lives in His control and our money and resources at His disposal for His use and glory.

Indicators of Growth:

1. **Acceptance** - that God is the Creator of everything. He is the provider of every good thing in our life, spiritual and physical, tangible (things/money) and intangible (time/energy/abilities). Our role is to be the trustee, manager, and steward of all that God entrusts to us during our lifetime. (Psalm 50:10-12, 1 Chronicles 29:11-12, 1 Chronicles 29:14-16, Psalm 24:1, James 1:17)
2. **Giving out of plenty and out of lack** - We recognize that God is our provider. We can give beyond what is comfortable and stretch our faith and trust in God. We can even give when we don't have all that we might feel we need or want because we know God holds our lives in the palm of His hand. (Luke 16:11-13)
3. **Tithing** - the first 10% of our income is a basic commitment to God's work in the kingdom. Though all we have is a gift from God and should be held in open hands, we seek to give the first fruits of what we earn and have for the work of Jesus in the local church and the world. (Luke 11:42, Deuteronomy 14:22-23, Exodus 22:29, Genesis 14:20, Malachi 3:8-11, 2 Chronicles 31:5,12)
4. **Giving above your tithe** - This is a sign of faith that goes beyond checklists and obligations. When we give above the tithe it is an offering to the Lord we love. (1 Timothy 6:6-8, Ecclesiastes 5:10, Proverbs 30:8-9)
5. **Radical Generosity** - introduces major risk in your giving as God leads you to give in a way that stretches your faith and takes you to new places of trust in God. (Matthew 6:21, 1 Timothy 6:17-19, 2 Cor 8:9)

Ideas for Action to Grow in Joyful Generosity:

1. Pray for God to lead your giving and grow your passion to be generous. Dare to ask God to help you see how good He has been to you and how all you have is really a gift from Him.
2. Make a commitment to give a set amount to your church every week or month and stick to it.

3. Make a decision to increase your giving by one or two percent. Keep giving at this level until it becomes natural.
4. Make a list of 25 things God has given you. As you look at this list, identify two or three things that you can share with increased generosity.
5. Look back over the past 12 months and honestly evaluate how generous you have been. Talk with God about this and ask for His insight on your generosity.
6. Simplify your life in some practical way so that you can become more generous in the coming year.
7. Plan your personal giving strategy for the coming months and seek to stick to it.
8. Set up ways to track your giving and review it regularly to see how you are doing.
9. Attend a biblical money management class.
10. Ask God to increase your joy as you give and share what God has entrusted to you.

Resources for Growth in Joyful Generosity:

Organic Disciples Resources:

1. [*Organic Disciples, Seven Ways to Grow Spiritually and Naturally Share Jesus*](#) (The Book), Part 5 (Chapters 16-18) on Joyful Generosity, Pages 171-202.
2. [*Organic Disciples, Seven Ways to Grow Spiritually and Naturally Share Jesus \(Study Guide\)*](#), on Joyful Generosity, Pages 77-91.
3. [*Organic Disciples, Free Online Video Teaching - Joyful Generosity*](#)
4. Organic Outreach International website, www.OrganicOutreach.org

Books/Articles:

1. Alcorn, Randy [*The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving*](#)
2. Cameron, Barry L. [*Contagious Generosity: The Key to Continuous Blessing*](#)
3. Harney, Kevin G. "Chapter 13: The Seismic Shift from Mine to God's" [*Seismic Shifts: The Little Changes that Make a Big Difference in Your Life*](#)
4. Harney, Kevin G. "Chapter 14: The Seismic Shift from Hamsters to Sharers" [*Seismic Shifts: The Little Changes that Make a Big Difference in Your Life*](#)
5. Harney, Kevin G. "Chapter 15: The Seismic Shift from Fleeting Wealth to True Wealth" [*Seismic Shifts: The Little Changes that Make a Big Difference in Your Life*](#)
6. Harper, Todd ["The Joy of Generosity"](#) C.S. Lewis Institute, 2017 May 13
7. Nelson, Tom ["Joyful Generosity"](#) *The Gospel Coalition*, 2009 October 26
8. Ramsey, Dave [*The Total Money Makeover: A Proven Plan for Financial Fitness*](#)

Websites/Sermons/Podcasts/Bible Studies

1. ["Blessed are the Poor"](#) Timothy Keller Sermons Podcast, Gospel in Life, 21 January 2016
2. ["Generosity in Scarcity"](#) Timothy Keller Sermons Podcast, Gospel in Life, 14 November 2016
3. ["Greed and Generosity"](#) The Genesis Project, Dr. Larry Osborne
4. [Living Generously 10-Session Video Series](#), RightNow Media
5. ["Metrics... Measurements that Matter: Joyful Generosity"](#) Shoreline Church, Pastor Dennis McFadden, 11 March 2018