

## How to Become Generous

Most of us believe in generosity. But believing in generosity is different from actually being generous. How can we become generous, giving what we have to God with open hearts and open hands? We become more generous by learning to give consistently, sacrificially, joyfully, and wisely.

Why should we become generous and joyful givers?

Reason 1: Giving is an act of worship to our worthy God.

Reason 2: Giving to God's purposes is an investment in eternity.

Reason 3: Giving is the proper response to God's generosity

Reason 4: Giving destroys our idols.

How can we become generous and joyful givers?

### Generous and joyful givers:

- **Give consistently (1 Cor 16:1-2).**

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

1 Corinthians 16:2

- **Give sacrificially (2 Cor 8:1-5).**

And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints...They gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

- **Give freely (2 Cor 9:6-7).**

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

- **Give wisely (Matthew 6:19-20).**

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:19-20

Give wisely:

- Give to those in need (James 1:27).

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

James 1:27

- Give to the gospel (Mt 28:19-20; Gal 6:6).

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him.

Galatians 6:6

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- Give freely (2 Cor 9:6-7).
- Give wisely (Matthew 6:19-20).

### **Primary goal**

Each one of us, and all of us together, experiencing the joy of generously giving ALL that we have and ALL we are to Jesus.

### **Secondary goal**

- Every Day — \$12 million  
Regular operating budget for 2 years
- Every Neighbor — \$18 million  
Creekside facility + Campus 4
- Every Nation — \$2 million  
2 Church plants

– I am praying for [person] to find and follow Jesus.

– I am praying for [place] to find and follow Jesus.

“I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.”

Isaiah 45:23