

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. **Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)**

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. **Ephesians 4:28 (NIV)**

Do the things that show you really have changed your hearts and lives...
Luke 3:8-14 (NCV)

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. **Luke 6:38 (NIV)**

Why develop a lifestyle of generosity?

1. I am _____ when I am generous

... live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us.
Ephesians 5:2 (NIV)

...God is generous. He enjoys giving to all people... **James 1:5 (ICB)**

- **The Stewardship Principle:** I'm a _____ not an _____

But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us! **1 Chronicles 29:14 (NLT)**

2. I feel _____ when I'm generous

- **The Magnet Principle:** My heart is _____ where I put _____

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Matthew 6:21 (NIV)

3. I am _____ when I am generous

...they were aliens and strangers on earth. **Hebrews 11:13 (NIV)**

Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! **Ecclesiastes 5:10-15 (NLT)**

- **The Affluenza Principle:** _____ is the only _____ to _____

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. **Ephesians 4:28 (NIV)**

4. I will be _____ when I am generous

A generous man will himself be blessed... **Proverbs 22:9 (NIV)**

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 (NIV)**

Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. **Philippians 4:17 (NIV)**

- **The Blessing Principle:** Every _____ is _____ and _____

A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.
Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)

Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income...
Proverbs 3:9 (TLB)

Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. **Malachi 3:8 (NLT)**

For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.
2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (NLT)

Ephesians 5:1 - 2 (NIV) ¹Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 4:28 (NIV) ²⁸He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

Luke 3:8 - 14 (NCV) ⁸Do the things that show you really have changed your hearts and lives...

Luke 6:38 (NIV) ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Why develop a lifestyle of generosity?

1. I am most like God when I am generous

Eph 5:2 (NIV) ... live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us

James 1:5 (ICB) ⁵...God is generous. He enjoys giving to all people...

- **The stewardship principle: I'm a manager not an owner**

1 Chronicles 29:14 (NLT) ¹⁴But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!

2. I feel closer to God when I am generous

- **The magnet principle: My heart is drawn toward where I put God's money**

Matthew 6:21 (NIV) ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

3. I am healthier when I am generous

Hebrews 11:13 (NIV) ...they were aliens and strangers on earth.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 - 15 (NLT) ¹⁰Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!

- **The affluenza principle: Giving is the only antidote to materialism**

Ephesians 4:28 (NIV) ²⁸He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

4. I will be rewarded when I am generous

Proverbs 22:9 (NIV) ⁹A generous man will himself be blessed...

Matthew 6:19 - 20 (NIV) ¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Philippians 4:17 (NIV) ¹⁷Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account.

- **The blessing principle: Every generous act is noticed and rewarded**

Leviticus 27:30 (NIV) ³⁰"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

Proverbs 3:9 (TLB) ⁹Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income...

Malachi 3:8 (NLT) ⁸"Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! "But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' "You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me.

2 Corinthians 9:10 - 11 (NLT) ¹⁰For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. ¹¹Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.