

**The Joy of Generosity**  
**God's Plan for Your Finances – Part 4**  
Life Church St. Louis – March 4, 2018  
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

*Isaiah 40:8 (ESV) The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.*

*Proverbs 28:22 (ESV) A stingy man hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him.*

*Proverbs 11:24-25 (ESV) One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.*

**1. Be \_\_\_\_\_ to God**

*1 Corinthians 4:2 (ESV) Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.*

**A. Desire to grow \_\_\_\_\_**

*1 Peter 2:2-3 (ESV) Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

**B. Seek to grow in \_\_\_\_\_**

*2 Corinthians 8:2-3 (ESV) for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord,*

**2. Be \_\_\_\_\_ to our church family**

*Ephesians 2:19 (ESV) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,*

**A. Generosity demonstrates \_\_\_\_\_**

*Acts 2:44-45 (ESV) And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.*

**B. Your heart follows your \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**3. Make a \_\_\_\_\_ for eternity**

**A. Sow \_\_\_\_\_**

*Galatians 6:7-8 (ESV) Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

**B. Wait \_\_\_\_\_**

*Galatians 6:9 (ESV) And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

**C. Reap \_\_\_\_\_**

*Psalms 126:5 (ESV) Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!*

*Matthew 25:23 (ESV) His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'*

**Action Plan for This Week**

Have a daily quiet time of Bible reading & prayer.  
 Mon  Tue  Wed  Thu  Fri  Sat  Sun

Sign up for the Financial Peace University ([www.lcstl.org/fpu](http://www.lcstl.org/fpu)).

How will I obey God's Word this week? \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Joy of Generosity Study Guide

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Intro. What would you say to someone who thought that the Bible was no longer relevant (Isaiah 40:8)?

What delusion is a stingy person operating under (Proverbs 28:22)?

Why are the principles of Proverbs 11:24-25 so hard for people to understand?

- 1A. Why does God require stewards of His resources to be faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2)?
- 1B. In what ways should believers desire to grow spiritually (1 Peter 2:2-3)?
- 1C. What would it look like for a believer to grow in generosity (2 Corinthians 8:2-3)?
- 1D. How did the widow in 1 Kings 17:8-16 display faith in giving to God's prophet first? What lessons can we learn from her?

- 2A. Why is it imperative that believers become members of a local church family (Ephesians 2:19)?
- 2B. How was commitment demonstrated as generosity in the early church (Acts 2:44-45)?
- 2C. Why does your heart follow your treasure (Matthew 6:21)? What was Jesus' point in Matthew 6:19-20?
- 2D. What are the consequences in a believer's life when they do not generously support their church family (Haggai 1:4-6)?
- 3A. What does it mean to sow to the Spirit (Galatians 6:6-8)?
- 3B. Why might we be tempted to grow weary of sowing (Galatians 6:9)? How can we learn not to give up in sowing generously?
- 3C. How do God's promises apply to the generous giver (Psalm 126:5, Matthew 25:23)?
- 3D. How does having an eternal perspective help in growing in generosity (Luke 12:15-21)?