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## A Generosity Road Map

November 22, 2015 | Excel in This Grace of Giving

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Discuss: What is your favorite item at the traditional Thanksgiving meal?

Last week we discussed the blessings and curses of wealth and saw that generosity is the antidote to greed. This week, we are looking at some biblical and practical principles for giving.

### Old Testament

The Old Testament portrays an impressive system of generosity and justice. It was given to Israel as a way for them to gratefully extend and reflect God's compassionate character.

*Tithe means a tenth part or 10%.*

Read Leviticus 27:30-32.

Why did they tithe?

1. To support the full-time religious workers. (Numbers 18:8-32)
2. To provide a community meal for fellowship and celebration of God's goodness. (Deut. 12:5-19; 14:22-29)
3. To help the poor. (Triennial tithe – Deut. 14:28-29; 26:12-13)

*God So Loved, He Gave* by Kelly M. Kapic

[Q] Read Malachi 3:6-10. Why would God consider failing to give Him our tithes and offerings *robbing* Him? What does that tell us about the way we look at Him and our money?

*Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops...* Proverbs 3:9

[Q] How could giving 10% lead wealthy American Christians into a sense of self-righteousness?

### New Testament

[Q] Read Matthew 23:23-24. What did Jesus criticize the Pharisees for? What did He expect from them?

[Q] How is it possible to tithe faithfully, yet fail to give generously?

[Q] Why might it be more appealing to give to the poor and to missions rather than the ongoing finances of a church? What should our responsibility be to our local church?

*Every time I tithe, I remind myself that God is on the throne. Not me. Not my money.*  
*Every time I tithe, I reinforce that all I have is from Him. The tithe is not a tip for good service, as though God were some helper I could patronize. He is the Owner, I am the steward.*  
*Every time I tithe, I make a declaration: "I will trust you, God." Even when trusting doesn't feel easy or natural.*  
*Every time I tithe, I am reminded, even as I calculate the amount of my check, of how much I've been given. I count my blessings, and in doing so, I put to death (or at least injure) the MORE monster in me.*

—*Giving: Unlocking the Heart of Good Stewardship*

[Q] Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, noting what we are to excel in. What is the connection between grace and generosity in this passage?

[Q] What are the results of generosity according to 2 Corinthians 9:6-12?

## Apply

[Q] How does eliminating personal debt help someone to be more generous? Practically speaking, how does having a budget help?

[Q] Have you encountered some hindrances to giving? If so, what? What has been an encouragement to you?

[Q] Are you satisfied with the amount you give? Why or why not? Considering this lesson, what needs to change about your giving? What steps in that direction can you take this week?

## Pray

*He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:32 (NIV)*

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**Additional Resource:** Watch Dave Ramsey videos on RightNow Media. [rightnow.org/Content/Series/142](http://rightnow.org/Content/Series/142)