

# The Joy of Generosity



## Exchange Wrong Christmas Expectations

### 1. More stuff won't make me **CONTENT**

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

### 2. More money won't make me **SECURE**

"In the blink of an eye wealth disappears, for it will sprout wings and fly away like an eagle." (Prov. 23:5)

### 3. More debt won't make me **MERRY**

"Owe nothing to anyone" (Romans 13:8) "Don't run up debts" (Msg)  
"fools spend whatever they get" "a borrower is slave to a lender" (Pr. 21:20; 22:7)

## Unwrap the Gifts of Generosity

### 1. Generosity **PLEASES** God

"share what you have with those in need, for such sacrifices are very **pleasing to God**" (Hebrews 13:16)

"the gifts you sent me...are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that...**pleases (God)**" (Phil 4:18)

### 2. Generosity Makes **ME MORE LIKE** God

"the **godly** are generous givers." (Psalm 37:21)

"**Godly** people give generously to the poor." (2 Corinthians 9:9)

"You know how full of love & kindness...Christ was. Though he was very rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich."  
(2 Corinthians 8:9)

### 3. Generosity Increases My **JOY**

"The people **rejoiced**...for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD"  
(1 Chron. 29:9)

"...they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity." (2 Corinthians 8:2)

(Jesus) "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

### 4. Generosity Decreases My **GREED**

"Don't store up treasures here on earth...Store your treasures in heaven... Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be." (Matt 6:19-21)

### 5. Generosity Proves My Character

**LOYALTY**: Budget a tenth (tithe)

"A **tenth** of the produce...belongs to the Lord" (Levit. 27:30-32)

"Make an offering of ten percent...In this way you will learn to live in deep reverence before **GOD, your God**" (Deut. 14:23 Msg)

(Jesus): "You should tithe, yes" (Matt. 23:23)

**LOVE**: Beat a tenth

"this gracious ministry of giving...is one way to **prove your love** is real."  
(2 Cor. 8:8)

"Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce." (Prov. 3:9)

### 6. Generosity Earns A **NEVERENDING REWARD**

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God...because **you have been my partners** in spreading the Good News" (Philippians 1:3,4)

(Jesus) "give (your) money to the poor, and you will have **treasure in heaven**."  
(Matthew 19:21)

"I tell you, use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends.  
In this way, your generosity stores up a **reward for you in heaven**"  
(Luke 16:9)