

Chapter 2

GIVE GENEROUSLY

“If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving – large or small – it will be used to measure what is given back to you.” **Luke 6:38** (NLT)

Giving generously is the second phase in our cycle of financial freedom.

Giving is a supernatural way to bring an increase to your finances. Getting ahead by giving really doesn't make any sense but God says that if you do it He will bless you. In fact, God says that He will prove to you that giving works.

*“‘If you do,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! **Try it!** Let me prove it to you!’”* **Malachi 3:10** (NLT)

First, if you want to initiate God's increase, give.

Receive Increase

Giving is a spiritual matter. It involves you and God. Ask God to show you how much to give, where to give, when to give and even if you should give to something or someone.

God wants our attitude about giving to be cheerful. He wants us to actually enjoy giving.

*“You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives **cheerfully**.” 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)*

Q1. Are you a cheerful giver?

Q2. Do you find yourself irritated by giving or pressured into giving?

God wants us to give cheerfully and He wants us to give generously.

The principle of sowing and reaping is seen throughout scripture. If you give generously, it is like sowing seeds and it produces God's blessing. You reap *God's increase*.

“Give freely and spontaneously. Don't have a stingy heart. The way you handle matters like this triggers God, your God's, blessing in everything you do, all your work and ventures.”

Deuteronomy 15:10 (MSG)

God promises that when you give to Him, He will meet your needs through His provision or supply.

“Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.” Proverbs 3:9–10 (NASB)

GIVE



**Receive
Increase**

Q3. What do you think experiencing God's increase in your life would be like?

There are three things your giving accomplishes:

1. It acknowledges God.
2. It helps the needy.
3. It spreads the Gospel.

Acknowledge God

Giving starts with God. God owns everything. There is nothing that exists that didn't come from God. Therefore, all that you have comes from God. Your ability to give comes only because you have something and that something that you have came from God.

"The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it."

Psalms 24:1 (NASB)

Can you give God anything? No, you really can't. But you can dedicate a portion to God.

By giving a portion of what you have, you acknowledge that God is the owner of all. This passage in Deuteronomy talks about proportional giving.

“...Bring him a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings you have received from him.”

Deuteronomy 16:10 (NLT)

Q4. Do you give in proportion to what you have received?

Q5. What kind of proportion or percentage do you give?

The Bible often refers to proportional giving as a tithe. The literal translation of the word “tithe” is “tenth.”

*“And concerning the **tithe** of the herd or the flock...the **tenth** one shall be holy to the Lord.”*

Leviticus 27:32 (NKJ)

Instead of bringing animals or crops as a tithe we can bring our finances to the place where God is honored and His work is being done. Giving a tithe reminds us that everything, not only the ten percent, belongs to God.

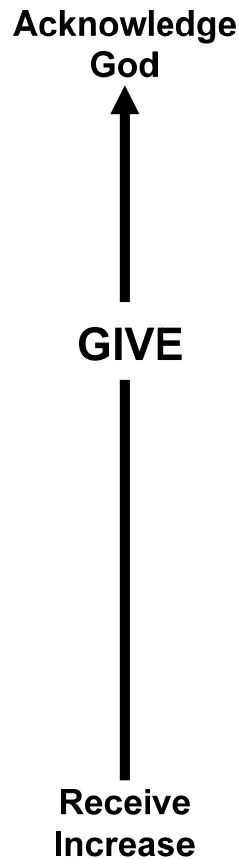
*“Bring this **tithe** to the place the LORD your God chooses for his name to be honored...This applies to your tithes of grain, new wine, olive oil, and the firstborn males of your flocks and herds. The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to fear the LORD your God.” **Deuteronomy 14:23** (NLT)*

So, whether we have a lot or a little, in God’s economy we are all giving the same when we give our tithe.

Giving your tithe can be the first thing you do with your money. As you receive a paycheck or increase of assets, give back a tithe of that income.

“On every Lord’s Day, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering...”

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NLT)



Q6. Is your giving based on a tithe or tenth of all you receive? Explain.

Q7. If not, are you willing to begin tithing?

Consider what God says in the following verse.

*“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)

The Needy

Taking care of the poor and needy is not a new idea invented by the government. Charity is God's idea. God is compassionate and He wants His people to take care of the poor and needy. The Bible teaches us to give generously to the poor.

"There are always going to be poor and needy people among you. So I command you: Always be generous, open purse and hands, give to your neighbors in trouble, your poor and hurting neighbors."

Deuteronomy 15:11 (MSG)

- Q8.** What is your attitude toward the poor?
- Q9.** Do you reach out to them through your giving?
- Q10.** Have you experienced God's blessing as a result of giving to the needy?

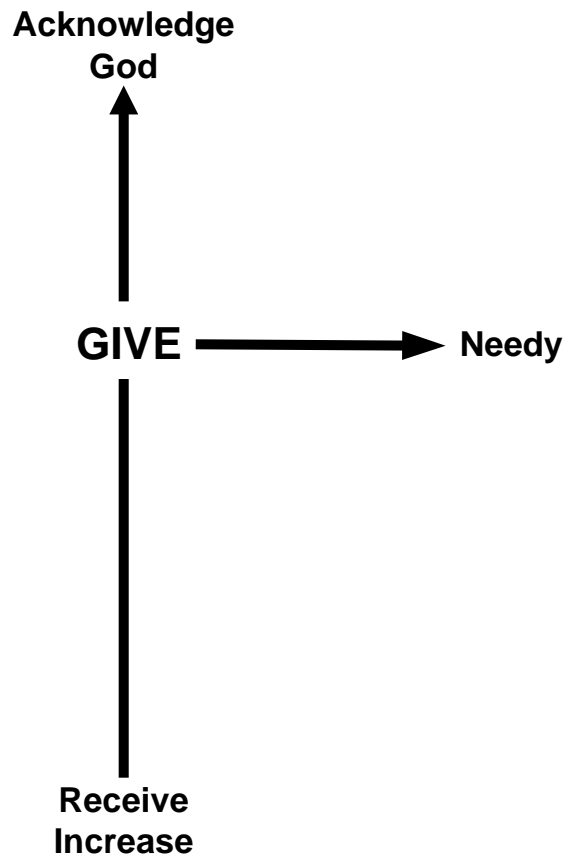
You are giving to God when you give to the poor and needy.

"...Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing?'...And the King will tell them, 'I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'"

Matthew 25:37–38, 40 (NLT)

There is a link between our generosity and His blessing.

"Generous hands are blessed hands because they give bread to the poor." **Proverbs 22:9** (MSG)



Giving initiates God's increase. By giving you acknowledge that everything belongs to God. When you give to the needy, you are giving to what God cares about.

Q11. What is something of value God is asking you to give?

As important as it is to give to the physical needs of people, God cares most deeply about where individuals will spend eternity – with or without Him.

Spread the Gospel

He cares about their souls. He demonstrated His great love for people, by giving His Son. His giving was generous and sacrificial.

*“For God so loved the world that he **gave** his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” **John 3:16** (NLT)*

Giving financial support to ministries that spread the gospel (the Good News) is another way of giving to what God cares about.

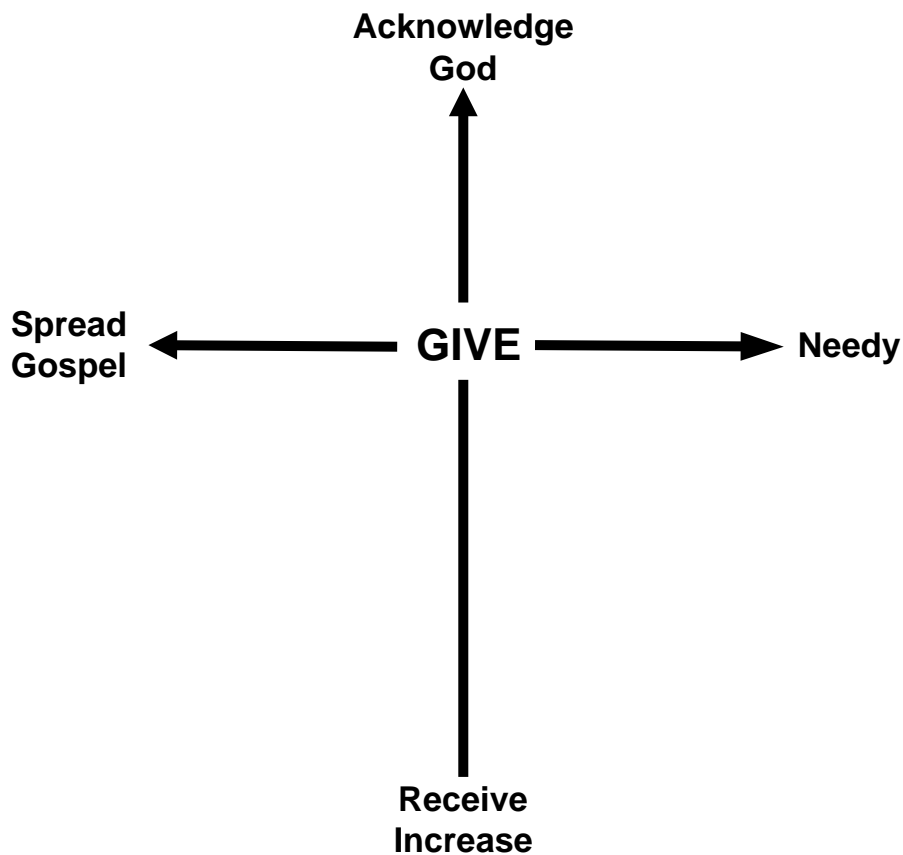
*“...You have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.” **Philippians 1:5** (NLT)*

You can give cheerfully because you are helping people come to know Him.

God has called people to teach others how to live.

*“Those who are taught the word of God should help their teachers by paying them.” **Galatians 6:6** (NLT)*

Q12. Do you support the people who work at teaching the word of God?



Q13. Do you consider yourself a generous giver?

Q14. Would others consider you a generous giver?

If not, examine your motives and beliefs about God and money.

“Speaking to the people, he went on, ‘Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot.’” **Luke 12:15** (MSG)

Our giving is to be generous. Our giving is to be sacrificial. This is because our giving is to reflect the way our Heavenly Father gives to us. God gave His greatest possession, Jesus, for us to have what we

have. Notice the shape of this diagram has formed a cross. Jesus gave His everything.

Q15. What did God show you through this chapter on giving?

Q16. What is God showing you to do in regards to your giving?

Believe God will bring an increase as you give.

Thank Him for the increase.

Do what God is showing you to do in regards to giving.

Giving

Diagram



Notes

