

generosity

WEEK 2
GET RID OF IT
DANNY ANDERSON

God wants you to excel at generosity.

Since you **excel** in so many ways- in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us- I want you to **excel** also in this gracious act of giving. *2 Corinthians 8:7*

1. We must rid ourselves of greed.

"It flows from the darkest part of our being that believes that we never have enough, that money is the solution to all problems, and that wealth is the key to our personal value as people." Gordon MacDonald

"Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own." *Luke 12:15*

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

Greed is one of the most **destructive** forces to a healthy spiritual life because it pushes God out of his rightful place in our heart.

2. We must rid ourselves of debt.

...the borrower is the **slave** of the lender. *Proverbs 22:7*

Strapped Debt Snowball by Life.Church on YouTube

3. We must rid ourselves of self - reliance.

"Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is **he** who gives you power to get wealth." *Deuteronomy 8:17*

"One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, **belongs** to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy." *Leviticus 27:30*

"You are under a **curse**, for your whole nation has been cheating me. **Bring** all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. **If you do,**" says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "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!** Put me to the test!" *Malachi 3:9-10*

"Your **cro**ps will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your **grapes** will not fall from the vine before they are ripe," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. "Then all nations will call you **blessed**, for your land will be such a delight," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies." *Malachi 3:11-12*

"100% < 90% + God." Tony Evans

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For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Introduction

Many struggle with the idea of generosity. Most of us would say we want to be more generous, and even think we should be as a matter of principle, but when it comes down to being consistently generous we fall short. Most Christians only give 3% of their income to charity. But God wants us to be excellent in the area of generosity, and the Bible provides instructions for how to do it.

Discussion Questions

1. We all excel at something. What is one thing you excel at? How did you get really good at that thing?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:7. God's desire is for us to excel in many areas - faith, knowledge, and enthusiasm, to name a few. Why would God want you to also be excellent in the area of generosity?

2. Greed can hinder us from excelling in the area of generosity. In Luke 12:15, Jesus said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own." Where does greed come from? How does greed destroy the possibility of generosity?

What are some signs that greed might have crept into your heart? How will you defeat it?

3. Debt can hinder us from excelling in the area of generosity. Read Proverbs 22:7. How have you found this to be true in your life? How does getting out of debt help us become more generous?

A clear way out of debt is to implement the debt snowball. What role does debt play in your personal finances? What would you need to do to get your debt snowball started?

4. Self-reliance can hinder us from excelling in the area of generosity. Deuteronomy 8:7 says, "Remember the Lord your God. He is the

one who gives you power to be successful." God has given us the spiritual discipline of tithing in order to break our tendency to rely on ourselves. Discuss how tithing increases your dependence on God? If you have been tithing, can you share the difference it has made in your life?

Read Malachi 3:9-10. God doesn't need anything from us. He desperately wants something for us. What does God want for you through your display of generosity? What needs to happen for you to begin tithing?

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

OUR CHURCH

We have a wonderful opportunity to provide for those in need in our own church family this holiday season. If you or your group, would like to help a family have a Merry Christmas, contact Kerry Jones for more details at kjones@eclife.org.

OUR COMMUNITY

Make an impact during the holidays by donating items for Christmas such as toys, hats, gloves, and coats. We will collect items through December 11. Please drop them off at the Greenwood Campus's West Office Entrance in care of Kerry Jones, and they will be distributed through The Refuge or directly to families in need.

OUR WORLD

Hope Road will be traveling to Nicaragua December 8-12. While there, they will be providing Christmas gifts to over 2,500 children. Have some holiday fun by creating hand-made Christmas cards with your family and our missions team will distribute them to children while in Nicaragua. Please turn them in next weekend at the Outreach Counter or Information Desk.

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____.

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I'm praying for:
