
5 Practical Steps To Becoming A More Generous Giver

1. Move away from dollar figures and begin to think more in terms of proportions. Even though the New Testament does not talk about tithing, it is very clear that **proportionate* giving - or, as the apostle Paul puts it, "giving according to one's means" is still the biblical model for giving. **Proportionate* giving means giving a percentage of your income

2. Set for yourself a Generosity Benchmark. Decide on a percentage of your income - that you will set for yourself and won't go below - as your generosity benchmark. Because the tithe is one clear standard of giving in the Bible, many Christians choose to set their generosity benchmark at 10%. In general, aim to give at between 5 and 10 percent of your income.

3. Gradually work toward your benchmark. Some have the means to easily begin giving at that chosen benchmark level; others need to work toward it gradually. One practical way is to take the total amount you currently give away, figure out what percentage of your current income that amounts to, and then gradually move up to the next percentage point until you reach your benchmark. So, if you are currently giving away 2% of your income, plan to give 3% next year, and then 4% the following year, etc. *Remember: we want to leave our comfort zones and head into our stretch zones but not go so far that we wind up in our panic zones.*

4. Enjoy the act of giving away your money to causes that are greater than you. God has designed us in such a way that we experience a deeper fulfillment when we give than when we receive. Tap into the power of generosity in your life by savoring each opportunity to be a generous giver.

5. Remember the church when it comes to your giving. There are many worthy causes, and you should give to as many of them as you can. But remember that the church is not just another institution, it is the body of Christ to the world. By giving through the church, you equip the church to effectively deliver the good news of Christ to the world in word and deed.