

ENOUGH

Joy through Simplicity and Generosity

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Part 4: *Being Defined by Generosity*

What God has to say about generosity:

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1) I am created in God's image with a built-in capacity for generosity.

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Voices that war
against our God-
given impulse
toward generosity:

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- The voice of fear.

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Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.—Proverbs 11:24-25 (NLT)

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- The voice of self-gratification.

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For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.—Romans 8:13 (NIV)

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2) God's instructions about generosity contradict my assumptions from a consumer mentality.

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- I find more joy in doing things for other people and for God than I ever do in living to please myself.

“I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'”—Acts 20:35 (NIV)

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- In the very act of losing my life, I find life.

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“If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.”

–Matthew 16:25 (NLT)

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- Life is a gift, and everything belongs to God.

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The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.—Psalm 24:1 (NLT)

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3) When God speaks of generosity he doesn't just say, "Do it"; he gives me a plan.

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Abram gave him a tenth of everything.
–Genesis 14:20 (NIV)

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“If God will indeed be with me and protect me on this journey...and if I return safely to my father’s home, then the Lord will certainly be my God. And...I will present to God a tenth of everything he gives me.”—Genesis 28:20-22 (NLT)

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*“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.
...Count off every tenth animal from your herds and flocks and set them apart for the Lord as holy.”—Leviticus 27:30-32 (NLT)*

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**What our
generosity means
to God:**



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*Then Noah built an altar to the Lord,
and there he sacrificed as burnt
offerings the animals and birds that
had been approved for that purpose.
And the Lord was pleased with the
aroma of the sacrifice....—Genesis
8:20-21 (NLT)*

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How our generosity affects us:

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1) Generosity
grows my
heart.



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Here is something to remember. The one who plants only a little will gather only a little. And the one who plants a lot will gather a lot. You should each give what you have decided in your heart to give. You shouldn't give if you don't want to. You shouldn't give

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because you are forced to. God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to shower all kinds of blessings on you. In all things and at all times you will have everything you need. You will do more and more good works.—2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NirV)

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2) Generosity opens the way for
God's blessings.

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“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse.... 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 3:10 (NLT)

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