

A young woman with long, wavy brown hair is smiling and looking upwards and to the right. She is wearing a white, textured knit sweater. The background is bright and slightly out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting with large windows.

A REDEMPITIVE STEWARDSHIP STUDY / **RESOURCE**

# Generosity

The Key to Living a Significant Life

A REDEMPTIVE STEWARDSHIP STUDY / **RESOURCE**

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*The Key to Living a Significant Life*

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## **Our Prayer for You**

*May God open your eyes to the fulfillment and contentment that is available to you as you seek to become more like Christ who constantly gave of Himself in love for others. May He speak to you through this resource to inspire and excite you to live a truly significant life by committing to generosity with all that you are and all that you have.*



## Introduction

Most of us have a desire buried deep inside of us to live a significant life. We spend our lives looking for ways to do something that really matters. We try to become significant through wealth accumulation, fame, athletic achievements, travel or endless other ways we think will make our lives matter.

But what if the search for significance is much simpler than we think? Let's look to scripture,

*Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.* (Hebrews 13: 15-16)

God's Word is clear, the answer to our search for fulfillment and contentment is to become like Christ, which means we must love and give. Giving of ourselves is key to living the way God designed us.

This message was filmed live during a recent talk I gave in Vancouver, and my hope is that God will use it to help you:

- Discover the key to a life of true and lasting significance
- Explore biblical examples of people who got it right and some who got it wrong
- Learn how to live generously in every area of your life
- Walk away inspired to live prepared for That Day when you will ultimately stand before the Lord.

You can go through this study by yourself or with a group. There is a listening guide for you to fill out as you watch the DVD, followed by some questions for personal reflection or to discuss with your family or small group.

Regardless of your approach to watching this message and answering the questions, I hope this teaching sparks a journey inside your heart to find the joy and freedom of generosity for yourself and those around you.

As always, we hope to support and encourage you on your journey. Please call us with any prayer requests at 1.800.722.1976 or visit us at [crown.org](http://crown.org) for resources to help you on your journey.

God is faithful,



Chuck Bentley

1 Corinthians 1:9

## VIDEO GUIDE

To be God's steward involves all the components of how you make \_\_\_\_\_ decisions and spending decisions, and investment decisions and \_\_\_\_\_.

You use money \_\_\_\_\_. If we can connect God's message and God's truth to our \_\_\_\_\_, then we have a greater connection with the Lord.

### **Acts 20:35**

Paul said, "In everything I did I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help \_\_\_\_\_."

All of us are called to help the weak.

Throughout history \_\_\_\_\_ has been the ones who've built the schools, who've built the hospitals, who've started the humanitarian relief, who've given aide, who've shown up when there's a disaster, who've shown up when there's human rights violations.

Everything God created \_\_\_\_\_. The sun gives, the moon gives, the stars give, the flowers give, the animals give, the soil gives. Just plain old dirt gives.

## NOTES

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If we're not givers, we've missed our \_\_\_\_\_ by God. We've missed how he designed us to function. We become like the \_\_\_\_\_.

To be a giver is to think of yourself \_\_\_\_\_ focused, instead of \_\_\_\_\_ focused.

## ADVANTAGES OF GENEROSITY

A. Research shows people who are generous report greater personal \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Harvard reports two things that make people genuinely happy.

a. Earned \_\_\_\_\_ – that's a goal that you set for your life and you get it done.

b. Generosity

2. Studies show the \_\_\_\_\_ has more \_\_\_\_\_ happiness than the receiver.

B. It improves your \_\_\_\_\_.

a. It reduces your \_\_\_\_\_ to become a giver.

b. You have a stronger sense of \_\_\_\_\_.

c. People who are generous tend to avoid \_\_\_\_\_.

C. God said he loves a \_\_\_\_\_ giver.

a. Givers are the economic \_\_\_\_\_ of the church.

b. Givers are important to the growth of \_\_\_\_\_.

c. God has placed givers in every sector of the \_\_\_\_\_.

d. God's economy can't be stopped. The only way it can be stopped, is if you stop seeing yourself as a giver and you see your significance in life as what you \_\_\_\_\_, not what you \_\_\_\_\_.

D. Giving turns your life from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ in God's eyes.

a. The only way your life becomes significant is by becoming a \_\_\_\_\_.

b. Significant means this, that your life is \_\_\_\_\_, that it's important and it matters.

### **1 Kings 17:7**

The first step in becoming God's giver is to get over your \_\_\_\_\_.

The reason that people don't give is not because of \_\_\_\_\_. It's because you're \_\_\_\_\_.

You have to get over your fear, because giving is a sign of \_\_\_\_\_.

### **1 Samuel 25**

Nabal means surly, rude, \_\_\_\_\_, foolish.

Nabal lived out his name.

Abigail was a \_\_\_\_\_. She is a picture of the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. The giver.

### **The widow and 2 mites**

The widow gave it \_\_\_\_\_.

## **NOTES**

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## **Acts 11:27-30**

The apostles got shipwrecked, beaten, jailed, they \_\_\_\_\_, they lost their credibility, they were spit upon, they were mocked, they were financially \_\_\_\_\_.

The natural, human tendency when we're \_\_\_\_\_ and we think we may \_\_\_\_\_, is to \_\_\_\_\_.

They \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_. This began the movement of Christians building the hospitals and the schools, and the relief agencies. And building \_\_\_\_\_.

It changed \_\_\_\_\_, because they went against human nature.

You can, " \_\_\_\_\_," yourself out of any opportunity to give.

You, "What if," yourself out of \_\_\_\_\_.

You will not give any \_\_\_\_\_ than you're giving right now. If you won't give 10% of one dollar, you won't give 10% of a million.

\_\_\_\_\_ helps you manage your finances in the proper way. It breaks the grip that buying stuff has on your life. It changes your \_\_\_\_\_ and your \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Luke 16**

The rich man was significant in the eyes of \_\_\_\_\_ with his money. Lazarus was \_\_\_\_\_, nobody helped him.

Lazarus went from insignificant to \_\_\_\_\_.

President Teddy Roosevelt said, "There's never been a man in history who lived a life of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, whose name is worth remembering."

In this story the rich man has no name because he identified with his

\_\_\_\_\_.

God \_\_\_\_\_ who the world called insignificant, to be significant.

The Pastor of the Tin City church teaches, "Your life will not matter, you will come into this world, you're poor and you will die poor, and you will be forgotten \_\_\_\_\_ you become a giver. And when you become a giver your life takes on \_\_\_\_\_ to your neighbor, it takes on significance to your family, it takes on significance to our church. And I'm asking you, no matter how little it is, to faithfully give so that the glory of God will be \_\_\_\_\_ through you, the \_\_\_\_\_ ones of the world."

Be \_\_\_\_\_ to God. Don't be significant to the \_\_\_\_\_.

When you become a giver the Bible says you'll be divided between the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

The goats were \_\_\_\_\_, the sheep were \_\_\_\_\_.

A goat is \_\_\_\_\_, they butt you and try to get their \_\_\_\_\_ way. They do their own thing.

A sheep \_\_\_\_\_ a shepherd. And the sheep \_\_\_\_\_, get sheared time, after time, after time, and give it all away. They get stripped down to nothing and \_\_\_\_\_ a shepherd. And that wool comes back.

The transaction is, most people want God to trust them with \_\_\_\_\_, but the real issue is, he wants you to trust him with a \_\_\_\_\_.

## NOTES

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Giving is a cure for your \_\_\_\_\_, giving is a sign you have real  
\_\_\_\_\_ in God, giving is a demonstration of God's love made tangible to  
your neighbors, and giving is what's \_\_\_\_\_ for you.

Giving. Doing the \_\_\_\_\_ thing. Being God's giver. That makes you  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Become His \_\_\_\_\_.

God so loved you that he gave his very best, and he did it \_\_\_\_\_.

**Questions for Discussion/Reflection**

In his message Chuck shared that throughout history the church has served as the primary source of humanitarian relief and aid in times of crisis. Is this true of your church and community? Where have you seen your church serving as the hands and feet of Christ? Where do you see opportunities for improvement?

**As Christians, we are the body of Christ. We are His church. How have you personally served as His hands and feet?**

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**Chuck gave 4 main benefits of generosity. Have you noticed any of these benefits in your own life? Which benefit is of greatest importance to you and why?**

- Greater personal happiness
- Improved physical health
- God loves a cheerful giver
- Life turns from insignificant to significant

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There were several obstacles mentioned that people often have to overcome in order to fully embrace a generous life. **What do you see as your greatest obstacle and why?** It may be one of the ones mentioned (fear, arrogance, selfishness, and a lack of trust) or something else.

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**Of the biblical examples given, with whom do you most identify? Why? Who do you relate to the least and why?**

- The examples used were Elijah and the widow – 1 Kings 17
- Nabal and Abigail – 1 Samuel 25
- The Widow and her two mites – Mark 12
- The Apostles who gave in the famine – Acts 11:27-30
- The rich man and Lazarus – Luke 16:1-15

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**How do you personally “what if” yourself out of being generous?**

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## Response

As you reflect on the video and discussion questions, what stood out to you most in this message? What are the next steps God is asking you to take in response to this message?

[illegible]

## Answer Key

### PAGE 5

giving  
debt  
every day  
financial  
decisions  
the weak  
the church  
gives

### PAGE 6

design  
Dead Sea  
outwardly  
inwardly  
happiness  
achievement  
giver  
lasting  
physical health  
stress  
purpose  
depression  
cheerful  
engine  
Christianity  
economy  
have  
give away

### PAGE 7

insignificant  
significant  
giver

meaningful  
fear  
greed  
afraid  
absolute trust  
arrogant  
giver  
bride of Christ  
all

### PAGE 8

lost their jobs  
persecuted  
fearful  
lack  
hoard  
gave  
famine  
the church  
history  
What if  
faith  
more  
Generosity  
perspective  
priorities  
man  
insignificant  
Mr. Significant  
luxury  
self-indulgence

### PAGE 9

possessions.  
redeemed  
until  
significance  
manifest  
weak  
significant  
the world  
sheep  
goats  
selfish  
generous  
stubborn  
own  
follows  
listen  
trust  
a lot  
little

### PAGE 10

selfishness  
faith  
best  
right  
happy  
giver  
first

## Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.





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