



Believe: Generosity Theology



Generosity
by LifeWay

What you believe regarding money and generosity is the foundation for your financial ministry. Your personal and church finances will reflect what you personally believe as the leader. You are both the lid to your church's financial potential and the gatekeeper for teaching personal freedom. Below is a sampling of different biblical teachings related to money and generosity. It certainly is not exhaustive, but it is a great start as you dig in and build a solid foundation for sharing what you believe God is saying through Scripture.

What Does Scripture Say?

1. Preview the list of Scripture passages below.

Which ones speak to you the most? List the corresponding numbers.

What scriptures and principles may be missing? Record your ideas.

1. God owns it all. Psalm 24:1
2. God is a generous God. Matthew 7:11
3. Generosity is the path to the best life possible. 1 Timothy 6:19
4. God is my provider. Genesis 22:13-14
5. Generosity blesses me. 2 Corinthians 9:8
6. Generosity refreshes me. Proverbs 11:25
7. Generosity is for all. Deuteronomy 16:15-17
8. Generosity is joy-filled. 2 Corinthians 8:2
9. Always be ready to give. 2 Corinthians 9:2-5
10. Generosity takes a willing heart. Exodus 35:21-29
11. God will move in our hearts to be generous. 2 Corinthians 9:7
12. Generosity blesses others. Acts 20:35
13. Money is to be enjoyed. 1 Timothy 6:17
14. Generosity is a reflection of God. Proverbs 19:17
15. God alone gives wealth. Deuteronomy 8:18
16. God gives both seasons of wealth and poverty. 1 Samuel 2:7
17. We will experience success, failure, and grace as we practice generosity.
Genesis 4:1-7
18. You do not lose when you give. Proverbs 11:24
19. Your business can be blessed. Proverbs 11:26
20. Giving, prayer, and fasting are connected. Matthew 6:1-21
21. Leaders lead first with generosity. 1 Chronicles 29:1-9

Use Scripture As Your Foundation

Notes

2. In order to anchor your life and ministry for generosity, you will need to craft 4-5 foundational theology points, along with a key passage for each point.

While you may teach on all that God's Word says related to generosity, you want to have just a few items that your people see and hear repeatedly. Take the time to reflect on those top 4-5 criteria you are most passionate about. At this point, simply be descriptive in your language. You will refine these phrases in a future exercise. Try to be brief, specific, and concise. Avoid making each axiom too broad or general. Include one key supporting Bible passage.

Example: *The blessings of generosity are for everyone; all ages, maturity levels, and incomes. John 6:1-14 describes a story where generosity involved everyone and blessed many. It involved Jesus, the young boy, the masses of people, and the disciples. In the beginning, the boy provides the gift. In the end, the disciples distribute much while collecting 12 baskets of leftovers. Jesus was involved as the miraculous multiplier. The key summary verse is John 6:9 "There's a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish—but what are they for so many?" CSB*

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Evaluate Each Selected Area

Notes

3. Look at your list. Now apply filters by asking yourself these questions and answering them honestly for each one. This will help insure you have enough breadth to lead across all platforms.

1. Am I personally passionate about each of these? Leading from strong belief and passion will increase the likelihood of success and breed confidence.
2. Have I provided one clear biblical passage for each that clearly speaks to this truth?
3. Am I speaking in terms of grace, growth, promise, and hope like the Bible does? Avoid terms that are negative, guilt-ridden, and obligation oriented.
4. Have I included a biblical teaching that will help me lead in the areas of personal application, staff leadership, and church financial decision making?
5. Do I have one for everyone? Is any one person or ministry left out? Think of young and old, single and married, wealthy and poor.

Craft Your Message

4. Now it is time to state your selected points in a way that will help you lead.

Here are some helps:

Be positive. God leads with love. His Holy Spirit will decide when conviction is necessary.

Be clear and concise. Just say it. Don't get so cute it loses meaning.

Be biblical. God's Word is powerful. Try to reflect the supporting passage.

Be memorable. It will be no good if you and others can't remember and repeat it.

Be actionable. Help people gain confidence that they can experience this truth.

Record the finalized belief statements with one key supporting verse for each.

Example: *Generosity is for everyone. John 6:9*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Refine Your Message

5. Commit these to prayer and personal application for the next 30 days before you begin leading with them.

You may very well experience a refining of both personal behaviors, words, verses, and applications. In the future, you will need to start leading with these words, but practice and test them personally first.

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