

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

Great Generosity Is God's Plan

Great Generosity | Part 2 | Matthew 6:1-4

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever found yourself doom scrolling, swiping through endless videos on social media? It is easy to get lost in a sea of content, but sometimes a story cuts through the noise. One such video showed a man at a gas station humbly asking for just two dollars to get to his sick mother. The first person he asked responded with anger, telling him to get a job. But a second person, witnessing the harsh refusal, kindly offered a twenty dollar bill.

The man with the gas can was so moved by the unexpected kindness that he revealed the truth: he was not out of gas. He was looking for a generous person. He then pulled out ten thousand dollars in cash and gave it to the kind stranger, rewarding his generosity. This story, whether real or staged, touches on a profound biblical truth. Jesus talked a great deal about money, stewardship, and the posture of our hearts. He taught that God desires for us to be generous givers, not because He needs our resources, but because the act of giving transforms our hearts to be more like His. As we explore what the Bible says about this discipline, we begin with Jesus' own words in *Matthew 6*.

KEY POINTS

1. Great Generosity Can Be Hindered By Our Circumstances

Many of us desire to be generous, but we feel trapped by our financial situation. Excessive debt, in particular, can feel like a chokehold, creating tension and leaving no margin for giving. However, God's mathematics are different from ours. He calls us to be conduits of His blessings, and that process does not have to wait until we are completely debt-free. Jesus applauded the widow who gave her last two coins, not for the amount, but for the trust it represented. The first step toward a lifestyle of generosity is to address the things that hold us back, create a plan for freedom, and begin to give in faith, even from a place of need.

2. Great Generosity Is God's Style

Everything God does is big. He is the ultimate giver, and everything we have, from the air we breathe to the resources we manage, comes from His hand. His character is one of abundant, overflowing generosity. This creates a dilemma for us. The Bible teaches that "one man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but it comes to poverty." We have the freedom to choose whether we will be a giver or a withholder. When we align ourselves with God's style, we learn that what we give away in faith, whether it is money, encouragement, or time, will come back to us in greater measure.

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3. Great Generosity Is A Matter Of The Heart

If you struggle with giving, it is not primarily a financial issue; it is a heart issue. Our hearts are naturally deceitful and can be resistant to God's call to be generous. A clenched fist often reveals a heart that is not fully surrendered to God's lordship. God wants to be first in every area of our lives, including our finances. When our hearts are aligned with His, generosity flows naturally as a response to His grace, not as a legalistic obligation. He wants us to be givers, and when that happens, our hearts will line up with His purpose.

4. Great Generosity Begins With Giving Yourself To God

The Macedonian churches were in severe trial and extreme poverty, yet their situation produced a rich generosity. They urgently pleaded for the privilege of giving. Why? Because they did not just give their resources; they "gave themselves first to the Lord." This is the foundation of all true Christian giving. We will always struggle with generosity if we have not first surrendered our lives to Jesus Christ. When you give your heart to Him first, obedience and resources will follow. This is not about a one-time act but a lifestyle of being in the flow of the Holy Spirit, who guides us in how to live and how to give.

The journey toward great generosity begins not with an audit of your bank account, but with an examination of your heart. Have you truly given yourself to Jesus first? The Bible teaches that our willingness to give generously reveals our closeness to God and our understanding of His grace. It is a tangible expression of a life surrendered to Christ.

This is not about legalism or meeting a certain percentage. It is about becoming a conduit for God's blessing. As you seek Him, He will show you where to give your time, your energy, and your resources. This discipline is essential for your spiritual formation, calling you to trust God's promises over your fears. It also shapes your legacy. By modeling generosity, you teach your children and grandchildren that everything we have is a gift from God, meant to be stewarded for His glory. Your faithfulness in giving becomes a quiet but powerful testimony that points others toward Christ.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Dr. Dodd teaches that a lack of generosity is a heart issue, not a financial one. In what ways does your current approach to giving reflect the state of your heart's alignment with God? How can you analyze your heart this week, as suggested in *Jeremiah 17:9-10*?
2. What practical or heart-related hindrances, such as debt, fear, or a victim mentality, currently limit your ability to be generous? What is one step of faith you can take to trust God in this area?
3. The Macedonians “gave themselves first to the Lord” (*2 Corinthians 8:5*). How does the principle of surrendering your whole self to Christ first, before your resources, change your perspective on giving? What would it look like for you to “get in the flow” of God’s generosity this week?
