



Seven Strong is an 8-week discipleship journey designed to move us from simply believing in Jesus to truly following Him. Beginning with an introduction to what it means to be a disciple, we will then explore seven essential spiritual dimensions—Bible, Holy Spirit, Mission, Prayer, Worship, Service, and Generosity. Each week helps us grow deeper, live stronger, and become more like Christ as we build a faith that lasts.

Week 8 — Seven Strong

Dimension #7 — GENEROSITY

INTRODUCTION

God is incredibly generous, and disciples reflect His generosity.

Everything we have is a gift from God:

- Finances
- Time
- Talents
- Opportunities

Generosity is the release of emotional ownership.

We don't give to earn blessing — we give because we trust and obey God.

Disciples:

- Give generously

- Serve generously
 - Encourage generously
 - Love generously
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WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT GENEROSITY?

1. Generosity is a Heart Issue

Matthew 6:19–21

Where your treasure is, your heart will follow.

Your priorities are revealed by:

- Spending
 - Scheduling
 - Stewardship choices
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2. Generosity is a Spiritual Practice

2 Corinthians 8:1–7

The Macedonian churches:

- Gave despite hardship
- Gave willingly
- Gave themselves to the Lord first

Generosity reflects spiritual maturity.

3. Biblical Principles for Generous Living

See resources from God's perspective

- Wealth ≠ wisdom (Proverbs 28:11)

Seek God's wisdom

- True wisdom produces humility and good works (James 3:13–18)

Invest in people

- The lost (Luke 19:10)
- Others sacrificially (John 15:12–13)
- The Church (Ephesians 5:25–27)

Imitate God's generosity

- God provides abundantly (Philippians 4:19)
- God gave sacrificially (John 3:16)

HOW DO WE DEVELOP GENEROSITY?

Generosity Begins with Gratitude

When we recognize what God has done, giving becomes natural.

Give Tithes and Offerings

Tithe — First tenth of income

- Honors God first
- Supports the mission of the church

Offering — Giving beyond the tithe

- Missions
- Outreach
- Special ministry needs

The Giving Ladder

- Potential Giver — learning to trust God
- Emerging Giver — first steps of obedience
- Consistent Giver — regular generosity
- Tithe Giver — committed tenth
- Extravagant Giver — gives beyond the tenth

DEVELOP A STRATEGY FOR BIBLICAL GENEROSITY

Put God First

2 Corinthians 8:1–5

- Generosity is primarily spiritual, not financial.

Give Joyfully

2 Corinthians 9:6–8

- Give intentionally
- Give cheerfully
- Trust God's provision

KEY TRUTH

We don't give because of what we have.

We give because God gave first.

CONCLUSION

Jesus taught that money can either control us or be surrendered to God.

Matthew 6:33

Seek first the Kingdom of God, and He will provide what you need.

Generosity is not about wealth — it is about trust.

NEXT STEPS Consider these ideas as you reflect on the Spirit-empowered dimension of giving this week:

- **If you have never developed the spiritual discipline of tithing, commit to tithe faithfully for ninety days. Then evaluate how God has blessed you during that time.**

- If you already give a tenth of your income, commit to giving more. If you can't give more financially, consider giving time and energy. Decide to carry out random acts of kindness weekly, monthly, or quarterly. Make sure to journal about any miracles that occur.

- Build your faith muscles by doing a Bible study about generosity. Here are some suggestions:
 - » Read 1 Kings 17:8–16. What can you learn from this story about putting God first?

 - » Read Malachi 3:6–12. What two things did God promise the Israelites if they would obey His command to tithe? What principles might still apply today?

 - » Read Philippians 4:10–20. How do you think Paul was able to write such a grateful, positive letter to the Philippian church, even though he was in prison at the time? What did their generous giving mean to him?