

WE EXIST TO MAKE DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

Step 9

Give Generously

1 Timothy 6:10 Proverbs 3:9
Matthew 6:19-2
2 Corinthians 9:6-8

The concept of giving generously is an important one in The Disciple's Journey because the Bible often talks about stewardship, finances, and possessions. There are over 2,000 verses that speak specifically on money and possessions.

But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today. – Deuteronomy 8:18

Money and possessions. Sooner or later, you probably figured out we would get to this one. The song may say, "love makes the world go round", but many people live and act like money does. And many people have the impression that this is true not only outside the church but within it as well. When it comes to giving generously, it is not something from which we can shy away. Jesus spends a considerable amount of time talking about stewardship. When we look at the overarching message of Jesus and the spiritual step to Give Generously, we see three important concepts that every disciple must cultivate: Open Heart, Open Hands, Open Blessings.

Open Heart – We give to the things that we love.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. — Matthew 6:19-21

Open Hands – It is all His and He has entrusted us with it.

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. – Psalm 24:1-2

Open Blessings – Give with a kingdom-minded mentality.

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. — 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Read

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. - Matthew 6:24

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

- I Timothy 6:10

Reflect

- I. Take inventory on your money and possession in light of the three "Open's". What would your money say are some of the things that you love? Would it show an attitude of generosity and stewardship or a focus on worldly treasures?
- 2. In your own words, what does it mean to give generously? What should the motivation for our giving be?
- 3. How will you incorporate giving generously into your life this week? This month? This year?

