

OUTPOUR

FIND THE EDGE

Living The Free Life

September 20, 2020 Message Notes

EPHESIANS 1:3, JOHN 3:16

God's Word speaks greatly into the topic of generosity. In fact, we were created not only in His image, but also with the responsibility of stewarding His good creation. Unfortunately, sin has driven a wedge between man and God resulting in hardened hearts and materialistic people. Materialism is the act of giving our heart's affection over to the things of this world rather than God; but generosity is the antidote to materialism's poison.

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NOTES

E.D.G.E. – Generosity

Materialism is like mud. It slowly molds around our feet and anchors us into empty promises.

Theologian Paul Tillich defines the distance between our existence and our essence as sin.

Our essence represents who God created us to be.

God made you in His image, and gave you the charge of stewarding His created world.

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

PSALM 139:14

Our existence is who we really are – broken and prone to wander from our God.

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world.”

EPHESIANS 2:1-2

Materialism is the act of giving our heart’s affection over to the things of this world rather than to God.

Money isn't what sticks us in the mud....

“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.”

1 TIMOTHY 6:10

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

PROVERBS 4:23

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

JOHN 8:36

Generosity is a means toward experiencing freedom. It is the antidote to materialism’s poison.

The stem of the term ‘generous’ comes from the Latin term ‘gen,’ which means “to beget” or “give life.”



“For God so loved the world that he **gave** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

JOHN 3:16

God’s Word refers to a principle called ‘tithing’. Tithing derives from an Old Testament principle known as the ‘first fruits’ and translates literally to ‘one-tenth.’

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation... For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

COLOSSIANS 1:15, 19-20

Tithing is a faith response that reveals a heart free from materialism and fuels the mission of God’s Kingdom through the local church.

“The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

EPHESIANS 1:3

Tithing neither obligates nor activates God’s blessing for you. It has already been given to you - in Christ Jesus.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

Our sin incurred a debt to God that could only be paid by our death. Yet, on the cross, Christ bought us back from our death and unleashed blessing upon us.

“You are not your own; you were bought at a price.”

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20

God freely gave and God for-gave. God modeled perfect love for us in Christ.

‘Blessed with so much’ implies material blessing. But that’s not how God’s Word defines blessing. It means more of God’s life, more of God’s power, more of God’s joy made alive in us by Christ’s Spirit.

Blessing roots out materialism in order to make more space for God’s life in you.

The fruits of God’s Spirit in us are: “...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things, there is no law.”



GALATIANS 5:22-23

These blessings give life, satisfy, and lead to unending joy.

Tithing proclaims that we trust God with our money, not trust money as our God.

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”

PSALM 24:1

“Tithing declares that it isn’t how much one has that matters—it’s whose it is that makes the difference.” – Robert Morris, *The Blessed Life*

Some leaders make tithing sound like karma – you give and more is going to be given back to you, and your wealth is going to increase. That’s nowhere in God’s Word.

Tithing is a faithful response that reveals a heart free from materialism and fuels the mission of God’s Kingdom through the local church.

God didn’t create you for the sake of your own existence. God made you for a love-filled relationship with Him, with others, and even with yourself. That’s your essence.

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”

MATTHEW 16:24-26

Jesus followers view tithing as a small gift of gratitude back to God for what already belongs to Him. Everything you have has been given to you by God’s grace.

For a Jesus-follower, tithing isn’t giving up 10 percent; it’s receiving 90 percent.

Do we trust God to sustain us after we give him our first fruits? Do we trust God to truly provide for us and to meet our needs?

He has already given more in Christ than we could ever acquire.

Tithing is a principle, not a law, that bears witness to our reception of God’s love in Christ.

It’s a means of unsticking us from the muddiness of this world – “...where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.” (Matthew 6:19)



Tithing lifts our eyes above “see” level and into “faith” level.

“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 6:20-21

Tithing guards your heart against the love of money.

All of the world wants a piece of your heart, but tithing declares who your heart belongs to. Tithing declares, “This heart isn’t for sale!”

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices - mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law - **justice, mercy and faithfulness.**”

MATTHEW 23:23

Tithing both reveals and fuels the most important matters of your faith: justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

“You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.”

MATTHEW 23:23

For some, living on the EDGE of generosity is your next great adventure. Go to God’s Word and read for yourself what God says about generosity and how God demonstrated his generosity for you.

Tithing is the practice of giving the first fruits of your pre-tax, gross income to your local church.

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

MALACHI 3:10

Some possess the spiritual gift of giving, which extends beyond the tithe into offerings that fund and fuel the mission of God’s kingdom beyond the local church.

“If your gift is giving, then give generously.”

ROMANS 12:8



“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

LUKE 12:48

Let's commit to three points of growth with our generosity:

1. Commit to praying for one another, inviting others into our family, and doing life together in community through small groups.
2. Commit to take a step closer to the EDGE of faith in our giving.
3. Commit to attend Financial Peace University, to help us live in the biblical principles of financial freedom and generosity.

Don't stay trapped another year in the mud of materialism. God freed us in Christ and blessed us in abundance, so let's sharpen our generosity EDGE together and witness how God will change the world through our gifts.

