



What If We Were Generous?

Todd King, Lead Pastor
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How do we grow in generosity?

1. Reject the myth of having to be rich first

Luke 21:1-4

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

2. Treasure the right thing, all the time.

Matthew 6:19-24

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

"No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money."

3. Cheerful, sacrificial generosity

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

⁹As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

¹¹You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

***It's easy to be seasonally generous,
but sacrificial generosity requires a
purposeful life of discipleship.***

Next Steps

If your greatest obstacle to generosity is that your personal finances are a mess, we offer two practical classes to help you move toward financial freedom and get out from under the crushing weight of debt. Both of these biblically based classes are offered this winter.

The Whatcom Dream

11 Thursdays, January 16–March 27 • 6:30–8:00 PM in Room 215

The Whatcom Dream is committed to helping people reach their dreams through financial literacy. Their unique approach helps you create a spending plan based on your true core values. When you learn to live and spend by your values, budgeting can be easy! *Free dinner at 6:00 PM.*

Register at the Connection Point or email reneeb@ctkbellingham.com.

Registration closes January 16. Rebound's Compass available for kids while parents attend this class; details in the CTK Life Winter Flyer (available in the Commons or at ctkbellingham.com).

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

9 Sundays, February 9–April 6 • 10:00–11:30 AM in Room 216 • \$93/family

Are you making ends meet but need to start a household budget, get out of debt, or save for the future? FPU is the tool to help you. You'll learn how to develop a spending plan, handle debt, and organize and manage your finances.

Register at daveramsey.com. For more info, email ryane@ctkbellingham.com.