



Week 3, Day 5:

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say,

*"They share freely and give generously to the poor.
Their good deeds will be remembered forever."*

For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

Proverbs 3:9-10

We are rich people. The only reason many of us do not think we are well off is because we live in America.

If you make more than \$30,000 a year, you earn more than 53.2 percent of Americans. Even the poorest 5 percent of Americans are financially better off than two-thirds of the entire world. We've got it good, and in Proverbs 3:9, God tells us to honor Him with our wealth.

God is a giver. He gave us life, and He gave us His only Son (John 3:16). As His representatives on earth, Christians should be the most generous people on the planet.

Generosity demonstrates a message to others about who God is, and it's one way God works through His people to bless other people. 2 Corinthians 9:11 says God gives to us so we can be generous to others.

The idea that if we had more we would do more is a lie. Statistics show people who make more money give a smaller percentage of their income away. Generosity is never a money issue; it's a heart issue. And when our heart is surrendered, generosity becomes a priority.

If we are generous with a little, we will be generous with a lot. If we obey Jesus when He tells us to be generous we show ourselves to be trustworthy with our wealth. And like a smart manager, God rewards and increases responsibility for those He can trust. That's what Paul meant when he wrote in 2 Corinthians, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

If we will be generous with what God gives us, we will see Him do amazing things through us.

REFLECT:

1. What's one way you can respond generously in your Built to Last journey?
2. What is God challenging you to do to be more generous?

PRAYER:

God, thank you for your generosity toward me. Help me to live a more generous life as I partner with you in helping people find and follow Jesus. I know You don't want my money but You want my heart. May my heart reflect Yours. Give me confidence to take steps that seem sacrificial for me in this challenging area of my life. I trust You, as I hand over this area of my life to You and take a step toward greater obedience in how You are challenging me.