

formed

*Words That Move Us
From Believer to Disciple*

LIVING GENEROUSLY

*Formed
Week 12
Scott Stevens*

KEY POINTS

- Generosity is a core discipleship issue and belongs in any teaching series about spiritual formation.
- God is the source of every person's ability to generate wealth and income, which should produce humility and a sense of responsibility rather than pride.
- The tithe described in Malachi is not giving God 10% but returning to Him what is already His, and it functions as a spiritual reset that restores intimacy and alignment with God.
- Young people and those with limited incomes are especially encouraged not to tune out, because forming generous habits early is far easier than doing so later when income and expenses both grow.
- The Parable of the Talents teaches that God entrusts more to those He can trust, and the question every believer must answer is whether God can trust them with what He has already given.
- Money is often the last area believers fully surrender to God, illustrated by the image of Crusaders being baptized while holding their swords above the water.
- Generosity is not a church fundraising strategy; it is a soul-shaping practice that changes the giver's mind, expands their influence, and lays up eternal treasure.
- Serving at a church, while important, does not replace financial giving.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Deuteronomy 8

Malachi 3

Matthew 25

Luke 19

1 Timothy 6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Deuteronomy 8 warns against believing that our own power and skill produced our wealth. How does this challenge the way you typically think about your career success, education, or financial achievements?
2. In the parable of the talents, the servant who buried what he was given was called worthless and removed. How does this reframe the way you think about the resources, opportunities, and income currently entrusted to you?
3. Malachi 3 frames the tithe not as giving God 10% but as returning what already belongs to Him. How does shifting from the language of giving to the language of returning change your posture toward money and ownership?
4. Pastor Scott reframed generosity, showing that it not only helps others, it leads to personal freedom and a deeper walk with God. Does this self-centered framing of generosity challenge or affirm your current motivations for giving, and why?
5. Paul instructs Timothy to command the rich not to put their hope in wealth, which he describes as uncertain, but in God. What practical steps would it take for you to genuinely transfer your sense of security from your financial situation to your relationship with God? What area of your finances, if any, have you never fully surrendered to God?

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