

## **“How to Have the Best Christmas Ever: Be Generous!”**

Greg Wendschlag December 11, 2016

Why is it essential to learn generosity?

1. Because **Jesus** is the model of generosity

*“Everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.” Luke 6:40*

- Jesus came: Be generous with your **time**.
- Jesus spoke: Be generous with your **words**.
- Jesus gave: Be generous with your **money**.

2. Because generous people realize their generosity is tied to their **relationship with God**.

- Everything belongs **to God**.

*“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from You, and we have given you only what comes from Your hand.”*

*1 Chron. 29:14*

- People who are **right before the Lord** are generous.

*“The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously.” Ps. 37:21*

3. Because generosity is **an investment**.

- **God will supply** you with what you need to be **more generous**.

*“Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.” 2 Cor. 9:10-11*

- God will **multiply** your efforts.

*“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” 2 Cor. 9:6*

*“Give generously to others and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.” Deut. 15:10*

- God **blesses** those who are generous.

*“Good will come to those who are generous...” Psalm 112:5*

*“One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.” Ps. 11:24-25*

4. Remember! It's not about the **size of the gift**.

- A **big heart** is better than a big gift.

*“Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small coins. “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live no.”” Luke 21:1-4*

- Make sure whatever you do you do it with the **right heart**.

*“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor. 9:7*

*“For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.” 2 Cor. 8:12*

***“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Cor. 9:8***