

## “4 Keys to Unlock the Power of Giving”

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*“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling **worldly wealth**, who will trust you with **true riches**? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with **someone else's property**, who will give you **property of your own**?” Luke 16:10-12*

Key #1 – God is the **Owner** You are the **Manager**

*“Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, “What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management.”” Luke 16:1-2*

- **Everything** comes from God.
- God has **expectations** of His managers.
- God will hold **us accountable** for how we managed His money.

*“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1:17*

Key #2 – If you are **Generous** Toward God He will be **Generous** Toward You

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

Laws of sowing and reaping

1. You can't reap if you **don't sow**.
2. If you sow **you will reap**.
3. If you sow you will reap **what you sow**.
4. You will reap **more** than what you've sown.

*“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” 2 Cor. 9:11*

Key #3 – **Honor God** with the Tithe

*“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse — the whole nation of you — because you are robbing me. 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 you will*

*not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the Lord Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty." Malachi 3:8-12*

- What is a tithe = **10%** of your income.
- Who should tithe - **Every Christian.**
- When should I tithe – When you **earn income.**
- Where should I give the tithe – To your “storehouse”, the **local church.**
- Why should I tithe – To **obey** and **honor** God.
- What are the results of tithing – God’s **protection** and **provision.**
- Can I give more than a tithe – give as much as you have **faith** to give.

#### Key #4 – Generosity Goes **Beyond the Tithe**

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

What is an offering – anything **you want to give** beyond the tithe  
What is the attitude of a generous person - **cheerful**

*“God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor. 9:7*

"The secret of financial success is save 10%, tithe 10%, and live on the rest."  
John D. Rockefeller

#### ***The 70% principle***

1. The first 10% is your **tithe**
2. The second 10% is your **offering**
3. The third 10% pays off your **debt** or is **invested**
4. Be as **generous** as you like with the remaining 70%

#### **This Week in Your Groups InCommon**

1. Share an experience when you “tested God” with generosity.
2. Why do you think so many people have such a hard time being generous?
3. What are some other passages of scripture that reinforce a life of generosity?
4. Does God bless money only when it is given to the church or does He bless all generosity?
5. Where does faith enter in to our life of generosity?