

The Joy of Open Hands

The Owner's Manual | Week 3

Hayden | Nov 20th & 23rd 2025 | Gabe Cleave



THE BLESSINGS OF GIVING

A. Scripture Teaches Generosity Is Blessed

- *Acts 20:35* – “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
- *Proverbs 11:24-25* – Giving leads to abundance; refreshing others refreshes us.
- *Proverbs 22:9* – The generous *will* be blessed.
- *2 Corinthians 9:6-11* – God enriches us so we can be generous on every occasion.
- *Luke 6:38* – “Give... and it will be given to you.”

B. Science Agrees

UC Berkeley's **Science of Generosity** study concluded that:

- Humans are wired for generosity.
- Giving activates reward centers in the brain (oxytocin).
- Generous people report more happiness and life satisfaction.
- Generosity strengthens relationships, trust, and cooperation.

“I never saw a cheerful giver who was not a cheerful Christian...” – *D.L. Moody*

THE MOTIVE FOR GIVING

A. We Don't Give to Earn... We Give Because We've Received

- Giving is not a payment to God—it's a response to grace.
- *Ephesians 1:3-8* – We have already been blessed with every spiritual blessing.

B. Gospel Motivation

- We give because God has been radically generous to us.
- The cross is the supreme act of generosity.

HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS GIVE?

Every Christian should give in three biblical ways:

1. Provide for Your Family

- *1 Timothy 5:8* – Caring for your household is part of true faith.

2. Help the Poor & Needy

- 1 John 3:17-18 – Love must be shown in action.
- Proverbs 19:17 – Helping the poor is lending to the Lord.

3. Tithe to Your Local Church

- Malachi 3:10 – “Bring the whole tithe... Test Me in this.”

Reasons to Tithe:

- It provides for the ministry of the church
- It tells God, “I trust You”
- It connects your money to a Kingdom purpose
- It breaks greed and self-reliance
- It declares God is first

“God’s blessing on the nine-tenths goes farther than ten-tenths without Him.” – *Billy Graham*

GET PRACTICAL: BUILD A GIVING GAMEPLAN

1. Are you providing for your family?
 2. Are you helping people in need?
 3. Are you tithing faithfully?
 4. Do you have a generosity plan?
- Tithe faithfully
 - Two generosity accounts:
 - Domestic giving
 - International giving
 - Goal: Give more each year than the year before

GOD WIRED US FOR GENEROSITY

- Why? Because **He is generous.**
- John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave...”

