



<b>DATE</b>	January 29, 2017
<b>SPEAKER</b>	David Smith
<b>TITLE</b>	Give Generously
<b>SERIES</b>	A new year offers a fresh start. And for many people after the Christmas season, our finances could use just that! Let's study what the Bible says about spending and saving, so we can control our money before our money starts controlling us.

Introduction: In this series, we've learned that either we control our money or it controls us. Today, we look at how giving generously exercises control over our money.

1. Read Acts 20:32-36. Share times when you've been blessed by giving and receiving. Describe what you consider the difference between the two if any. What about giving because God tells us to? How do you work that in with the idea of blessing?

2. Pastor David talked about 2 reasons we're uncomfortable about giving and 2 reasons we don't give:

*Uncomfortable:*

- spiritual abuse & manipulation
- Not convinced we need to

*Not giving:*

- Don't trust or feel safe enough
- Struggling financially

Discuss these 4 issues. Describe what each means from your perspective. Which ones have been difficult for you and which ones have not? Share why. How have you worked through them or you are working through them.

3. Read: Leviticus 27:30, Proverbs 3:9-10. Discuss the idea of trusting God with your money. Why do you think this is difficult? What do you think learning to trust God involves? What are some stories you can share around this?

4. Read Malachi 3:6-12. Pastor David said the tithe...

- Teaches me to put God first
- Provides for God's work
- Tests God's faithfulness

Reflect on these three statements. Where have you seen them demonstrated in your life or the life another? Are there other scripture passages or illustrations in the scripture that you think speak to these statements too?

5. Pastor David made the following four statements about giving generously:

- Means watching for periodic opportunities – *Isaiah 32:8, 2 Corinthians 8:3-5*
- Happens when you make a commitment – *Philemon 1:6*
- Breaks the power of money – *Hebrews 13:5*
- So we don't miss the miracle – *Mark 6:30-44*

What do you see as the main obstacles to generous giving? Read the corresponding scripture passages and discuss how you think they apply to David's statement. What other scripture passages do you think speak to each statement too?

Conclusion: Pastor David ended his message today by saying, "Spiritual growth doesn't cause giving; giving produces spiritual growth." Where might you need to exercise faith this week in becoming a more generous person? Share where you think God may be speaking to you and then pray for one another as a group.