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Joining in God's 'ever-rollingness'

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There is a never-failing ever rolling-ness to God. That's what Amos said, "Let justice be like a rolling river and righteousness like a never-failing stream." (Amos 5:24)

Stewardship isn't first and foremost about money. Stewardship is first and foremost about the nature of God... never failing and ever rolling. This must be understood and lived out if you and I are to be called faithful stewards.

When we give, we are participating in the personhood of God. We are participating in what is most real in the universe — God's inexhaustibleness! We are making God real in the world by lending God our flesh through partnership.

When we give, you might say, we are rolling the dice in a game, the outcome of which we are already certain. God is love. And, loving is giving. Read along in the bible, Old or New Testament, and you will see the most stern rebukes by God through the prophets are reserved for the people who claim God but fail to enact God. Rebuke is reserved for those who would dam the flow of God's never-failing ever rolling-ness, either in word, deeds or both.

But that is not who we are. We are those who understand and incarnate God's generosity. We are the people who appreciate at a deep personal level that all we have is gift. And that anything we could offer to God is simply the act of returning resources to its author and true owner.

But not only that, there is a never-failing, ever rolling-ness to be experienced personally in this giving business. Let's call it the experience of freedom born of fidelity. Freedom too often these days is defined as the absence of restraint or regulation. This definition of freedom is little more than the idolatry of the self or the market. The freedom that we were made for is the freedom that comes from faithfulness. This freedom births spiritual maturity and a robust sense of neighborliness and common well-being.

It's no wonder that one of the 100 most influential

For reflection...

- When has giving made you feel most connected to God and God's people?
- What hinders you from trusting and replicating God's never-failing and persistent generosity?

people in the world, as I write this article, is Marie Kondo, author of "The Life-changing Magic of Tidying Up." While on the face of it her goal appears to be decluttering the world one closet and home at a time, she's teaching the world that clutter and greed are bondage.

I believe her work is deeply spiritual. I believe her work is about removing the barriers to our experience of never failing and ever rolling-ness. What hinders us in trusting and replicating God's never-failingness and ever rolling-ness? Maybe we could begin again by thinking of God's raging, persistent, goodness toward us. Maybe that could unlock the flow.



The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright is the 10th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, which covers north and central Georgia, and embraces 110 worshipping communities. He and his wife, Beth-Sarah Wright, have a grown daughter and four school-age children.