
GENEROUS

Greater Possibilities Together



THE
PARADOX
OF
GENEROSITY



GIVING WE RECEIVE, GRASPING WE LOSE

Christian Smith &
Hilary Davidson

"In general the more generously people give of themselves, the more of many goods they receive in turn. Sometimes they receive more of the same kind of thing that they gave—money, time, attention, and so forth. But, more often and importantly, generous people tend to receive back goods that are even more valuable than those they gave: happiness, health, a sense of purpose in life, and personal growth."

Christian Smith

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2nd Corinthians 9:8

Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:37-38

"Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings.⁹ You are under a curse —your whole nation—because you are robbing me.¹⁰ 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 there will not be room enough to store it.

Malachi 3:8-10

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 1:3

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21



A photograph of a man with glasses and a tan jacket standing in a hallway. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. In the foreground, a large, semi-transparent white banner with the text "Albert Lexie" and "1942-2018" is overlaid. The banner has a decorative scalloped edge. In the background, several other people are standing in the hallway, some wearing purple shirts. A purple cage with a small animal inside is in the lower foreground.

Albert Lexie
1942-2018

The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.

Proverbs 11:24 (The Message)

"At the very least, we can conclude that the practice of giving away 10 percent of one's income is associated with the greater probability of being happy in life. Stated in the reverse, Americans who do not give away 10 percent of their income run the significant risk of ending up less happy than they might have otherwise been. In fact, as a group they are less happy. So, whatever Americans lose monetarily by giving away 10 percent of their income is offset by the greater likelihood of being happier in life."

Christian Smith

"Giving money, volunteering, being relationally generous, being a generous neighbor and friend, and personally valuing the importance of being a generous person are all significantly positively correlated with greater personal happiness, physical health, a stronger sense of purpose in life, avoidance of symptoms of depression, and a greater interest in personal growth."

Christian Smith