

**In God We Trust: Having a Heart of Generosity**  
**Pastor Dennis Rouse**  
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**Psalm 37:21-26 NIV**

*The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give GENEROUSLY; those the Lord blesses will inherit the land, but those he curses will be destroyed. The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand. I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.*

**3 Main Obstacles to Overcome:**

1. Trust Issues

**Proverbs 3:5-10 NIV**

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. HONOR THE LORD WITH YOUR WEALTH, WITH THE FIRSTFRUITS OF ALL YOUR CROPS; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*

2. Stuff Issues

3. Selfish Issues

**Mark 4:18-19 CEV**

*The seeds that fell among the thornbushes are also people who hear the message. But they start worrying about the needs of this life. They are fooled by the desire to get rich and to have all kinds of other things. So the message gets choked out, and they never produce anything.*

## **What a Heart of Generosity Looks Like:**

1. You give because you want to demonstrate a thankful heart to God at all times.

### **Matthew 6:21 NKJV**

*“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

## **Two Groups of People in Church: GIVERS and TAKERS**

2. You give because you want to position yourself and your family for God’s blessing and protection.

### **Malachi 3:8-11 MSG**

*“Begin by being honest. Do honest people rob God? But you rob me day after day. You ask, ‘How have we robbed you?’ The tithe and the offering—that’s how! And now you’re under a curse—the whole lot of you—because you’re robbing me. Bring your full tithe to the Temple treasury so there will be ample provisions in my Temple. Test me in this and see if I don’t open up heaven itself to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams. For my part, I will defend you against marauders, protect your wheat fields and vegetable gardens against plunderers.”*

3. You give because you want to learn how to live a sacrificial life before God.

### **Luke 12:16-21 NIV**

*And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”*

“When you allow yourself to cross the finish line, you’re finished!”

“When you can afford to quit, you can’t afford to quit!”

4. You give because you want the money God entrusts you with to matter!

**Matthew 6:19-21 MSG**

*“Don’t hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it’s safe from moth and rust and burglars. It’s obvious, isn’t it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.”*