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When is more money the right answer?

(morphing from a consumer into a contributor)

(SERIES: **Making This Year My Best Year Yet: 04 of 07**)
by Dr. David Foster

"But remember this--**IF YOU GIVE LITTLE, YOU WILL GET LITTLE**. A farmer who plants just a few seeds will get only a small crop, but if he plants much, he will reap much. Everyone must make up his own mind as to how much he should give. Don't force anyone to give more than he really wants to, for cheerful givers are the ones God prizes. **God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more so that there will not only be enough for your own needs but plenty left over to give joyfully to others.** It is as the Scriptures say: 'The godly man gives generously to the poor. *His good deeds will be an honor to him forever.*' For God, who gives seed to the farmer to plant, and later on good crops to harvest and eat, will give you more and more seed to plant and will make it grow so that you can give away more and more fruit from your harvest. Yes, God will give you much so that you can give away much, and when we take your gifts to those who need them they will break out into thanksgiving and praise to God for your help. So two good things happen as a result of your gifts--those in need are helped, and they overflow with thanks to God." (2 Cor 9:6-12 TLB)

The 6 principles of a generosity mindset

The "**Who's in charge**" principle

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;" (Psa 24:1 NIV)

"For in him we live and move and have our being. . . ." (Acts 17:28 NIV)

"Then Jesus said to them, 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.' And they were amazed at him." (Mark 12:17 NIV)

The "**Give and grow**" principle

"'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 you will not have room enough for it.'" (Mal 3:10)

"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal." (Mat 6:20)

The "**Big deal of small things**" principle

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." (Luke 16:10)

"Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be." (Job 8:7 NIV)

The "**Willing attitude**" principle

"But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --SEE THAT YOU ALSO EXCEL IN THIS GRACE OF GIVING. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have." (2 Cor 8:7)

The "**Thimble or barrel**" principle

"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 6:38)

"Even when walking through the dark valley of death I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me, guarding, guiding all the way. You provide delicious food for me in the presence of my enemies. You have welcomed me as your guest; blessings overflow! Your goodness and unfailing kindness shall be with me all of my life, and afterwards I will live with you forever in your home." (Psa 23:4-6 TLB)

The "**New wineskins**" principle

"And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined." (Luke 5:37 NIV)

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." (Isa 43:19 NIV)