



2 Corinthians 9:6-8; 12-13 (NIV)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ 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... ¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

You have been designed by God to be generous!

That's because you are created in the image of God, and God is a giver.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...

John 3:16 (NIV)

*Every good and perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of lights ...*

James 1:17 (KJV)

Question:

If God designed me to be generous,
then why do I find it so difficult to be generous?

Answer:

There are two voices that "war" against our God-designed
impulse toward generosity.

The Two Destructive Voices

I. **The Voice of** _____.

2. The Voice of _____.

How do you defeat the voices?

- Put your faith in Christ (Trust).
- Invite Him to be your Lord.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to change you from the inside out.

Note: The more you grow in Christ, realizing that our lives belong to Him, the more generous you become.

Biblical Guideline for Giving

From the earliest days of the Old Testament, a gift offered to God was called the _____ or the _____.

As New Testament Christians living under the new covenant, we are not bound by the Law of Moses. Yet, most Christians agree that the tithe is a good guideline for our lives, and one that is pleasing to God.

Illustration of ten apples

How Our Generosity Affects Us

1. Through Generosity _____.

2. Through Generosity We Find _____.

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so that there will be food enough in my Temple; if you do, I will open up the windows of heaven for you and pour out a blessing so great you won't have room enough to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you!

Malachi 3:10 (LB)

John Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,

Praised for you or criticized for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.

**And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
You are mine, and I am Yours.
Amen.**

Source for today's teaching : *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity* by Adam Hamilton.