

The Generosity Blueprint

A structured plan for giving — because generosity and wealth were never opposites.

"One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty."

— Proverbs 11:24

The world says wealth is built by holding tighter. Solomon says the opposite — the generous prosper, and the one who refreshes others is refreshed. Generosity is not what you do after you are wealthy; it is part of how wealthy people think. This blueprint builds giving into your plan, on purpose.

1 THE PARADOX OF OPEN HANDS

Generosity is not the enemy of wealth. Across Proverbs, it travels with it.

Holding everything tightly feels safe, but it quietly shapes a scarcity mindset — the belief that there is never enough, that another's gain is your loss. Generosity breaks that spell. It trains you to see money as a tool that flows rather than a hoard that must be guarded, and that posture — abundance, not fear — is the same one that builds wealth wisely. You give not because you have surplus, but to become the kind of person surplus does not corrupt.

2 GIVE FIRST — LIKE SAVING

The firstfruits principle: generosity comes off the top, not from the leftovers.

"Honour the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops." (Proverbs 3:9) Most people intend to give from what is left at the end of the month — and at the end of the month, nothing is left. Wisdom reverses the order. Giving, like saving, is decided first and automated, so it happens by design rather than by leftover. Decide the amount once; let the system carry it.

3 HOW MUCH — THE PERCENTAGE LADDER

Start where you honestly can. Then climb one rung as your means grow.

STAGE	GIVE	THE IDEA
Starting out	1–2%	Build the habit — the muscle matters more than the amount
Steady	5%	A meaningful, deliberate slice, automated off the top
Established	10%	The classic tithe — a tenth, given first and consistently
Abundant	10%+	As capacity grows, the open hand opens further

The number is yours to set. A consistent 2% given joyfully outranks a guilt-driven 10% given resentfully and then quietly stopped. Pick a percentage you will actually sustain, automate it, and raise it by a point whenever your income rises.

4 THE THREE BUCKETS OF GIVING

Diversify generosity the way you diversify investing — across need, cause, and legacy.

WHERE THE GIVING GOES

Immediate need

The person or family in front of you, now. Direct, relational, often anonymous.

Ongoing causes

A church, charity, or mission you support steadily — compounding impact over years.

Legacy giving

Built into your plan and your will — generosity that outlives you (Proverbs 13:22).

The Generosity Blueprint — continued

5 GIVE WISELY — VET WHERE IT GOES

Generosity without discernment is not virtue. Know that your gift actually helps.

- The cause is transparent about how money is used**
Wisdom demands clarity. A good cause can show where the money goes.
- A meaningful share reaches the actual need, not just overheads**
You are not obliged to fund inefficiency. Give where the gift lands.
- I am giving from conviction, not pressure or guilt**
The cheerful giver gives by decision, not by emotional arm-twisting.
- For large gifts, I have done the same diligence I would for an investment**
The bigger the gift, the more the stewardship matters.

6 GIVE BEYOND MONEY

Money is the easiest thing to give. Often it is not the most valuable.

Time, skill, and counsel are forms of wealth too — and frequently the ones that change a life most. Mentoring someone with the knowledge you have built, giving hours where they are needed, opening a door for someone behind you: these cost no money and compound enormously. The fully generous person gives from every kind of wealth they hold, not only the financial kind.

7 BUILD IT INTO THE SYSTEM

The whole strategy, made automatic.

- A fixed giving amount leaves automatically each month — first, before lifestyle**
- I have chosen my causes deliberately, across the three buckets**
- Giving rises by one point with every meaningful income increase**
- A legacy gift is named in my will or beneficiaries**

"The open hand is refreshed, and the tight fist runs dry. Build generosity into the plan — and prosper with it, not despite it."

— HOUSE OF WISDOM

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