

17 Ways to Move Toward II Corinthians 8:3-5 Generosity

***Important:** You can do any or all of these things for the wrong reasons. The Gospel of grace, not a Gospel of works must be at work in your heart before you can please God by doing any of these things. But once the grace of Jesus is central, here are ideas for generosity:

- 1-Do a serious assessment of your possessions...give or sell: books, shoes, bags, furniture, clothes, games, devices, attic & garage collections, jewelry...if you sell give all the money to mercy needs
- 2-Have your kids sell some of their stuff....old devices, sports equipment, video games
- 3-Give away some of your rainy day fund because people all over the world are already having a rainy day.
- 4-Don't eat out for a month, 2 months, 3 months...give the savings to mercy needs
- 5-Take 5-10-20-50% of what you wanted to put back for retirement this year and give it to the church/to the poor
- 6-Cash out some of your stock options
- 7-Sell some of your land
- 8-Downsize or don't do those upgrades to your house
- 9-Ask a neighbor or family members to join you in this
- 10-Cancel your cable
- 11-Go on one less vacation this year or no vacation this year or go on a lower budget vacation this year
- 12-Control your spending on clothes, entertainment, food...give the money away instead of consuming with it or saving it
- 13-Shop at a discount store like Aldi instead of High End Supermarkets-give savings to the poor
- 14-Eat fast food 1/2 as much as you normally do-if my family cut ours in half we'd save \$75/month
- 15-Have your kids raise money for the poor through service projects
- 16-Wait 1-2-3 more years to get a new car...give the saved money away
- 17-Encourage your street or neighborhood to have a community wide garage sale where a significant % of the proceeds go to meet to a specific local need

*Make a personal goal for the year-I want to give \$_____ or _____% more than last year. Make the goal something that really stretches you to trust in God as your provider.

*Don't stop with good intentions; give more generously than you ever have before. Do it not TO RECEIVE grace from God but IN RESPONSE to the grace of God.