



Week 4: Let's Get Started

## INTRODUCTION

As each of us move through our lives, we are given certain resources. Each of us is ultimately responsible for what we do with these gifts from God. Assuming we want to start making a difference with our resources, how do we get started? What would God have us do as we begin the journey and as we seek to excel at our giving?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you hear the term "Tithing" what does this bring up in your mind? Tithing is often treated as a finish line, a goal to achieve. What is the difference between mechanical 10% giving and "generous" or "extravagant" giving spoken about in the New Testament?
2. Where is the line between necessity and excess? What do you really need, and what can you give away? Are the answers different for different people?
3. Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 9:10-11. What is the ultimate reason for God's call for us to be generous? Is there any danger in giving too much too soon? Or is the real danger is waiting too long? How much would I have to give away before I actually became irresponsible?
4. Randy writes that what our children need from us is a heritage, not an inheritance. What are some spiritual "assets" that you would want to leave your children when your life is over? How do we manage the tension between leaving enough money to bless your children, but not enough to hurt or tempt them?
5. When it comes to our giving, where is the balance between respecting privacy and avoiding pride & obeying God's instruction to let our lights shine and to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds"?

## MOVING FORWARD

The goal this week is to spend time with God to decide in your heart what He would have you to give. Then carry it out. Wherever you are now, ask God to show you where he would have you move to best grow your faith and follow him with all you have.

Remember this week, "God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving."

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. *You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*" 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:10-11