

P3 Protocol

A Marked Man is a *gracious and generous* man.

Generosity Protocol #3: Giving: the key to financial freedom

One of the great truths taught in scripture is that the best way to deal keep money from becoming a snare or an idol to is to give it away. This is made easier by the fact that all we have is a gift from God (**James 1:17**) and we are merely stewards of it for a time. Jesus came to bring us freedom from enslavement to sin and any other idol or thing that is not God. By unleashing the power of giving, we can truly become gracious and generous men of God. This protocol will help us by looking at just a few of the many scriptures that have to do with giving and allowing each man to explore wounds he might have around this issue and find healing in Jesus Christ.

Check in: (Always include Prayer) After a general check in, answer one of these questions:

Do you typically give money to panhandlers (beggars) when they approach you?

On a scale from 1 to 10, how generous are you? (1 - never give anything, 10 - you own nothing because you already gave it away!)

Clearing/Safety

In addition to the usual clearing, this protocol will deal with your heart issues around giving. Issues like, wealth, income, debt, money might be “on the table”. Are you clear with your brothers in the circle so that you can be strong for them in their need as well as vulnerable to honestly look at your own wounds with them in this topic? If so, verbally indicate such during this clearing, or if not, do the hard work of humbling yourself before God or with another brother before entering sacred space.

Scripture

Read **Malachi 3:6-12**

Israel was commanded in Leviticus and Deuteronomy to tithe (give a regular, generous gift of first fruits) for the care of the Levites, (their priests and minister) provision for the poor and for carrying on of regular festivals. Their failure to do so is condemned by Malachi, the prophet, as “robbing God”. Such a tithe amounted to over 23% yearly when calculated out.

Does this scripture make you think that you might be “robbing God”? Why or why not? Have you ever tested God in this matter of giving? What was the result?

Read **2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

Two principles are clear from this passage: your giving will be rewarded by a generous and loving Father. So be generous. Also, your giving is to be without compulsion but should come from a cheerful heart. (The root word for cheerful is where we get the word ‘hilarious’)

Without getting into theological arguments, what elements of giving have changed as we move from the Old Testament to the New? What has stayed the same?

Work Round

Take 5 or 10 minutes to sit in silence with these questions, asking the Holy Spirit what he would like you to do regarding giving?

*Are you open to spontaneous giving that is motivated by the Holy Spirit?
Do you have a giving plan that strategically looks at what God has given you and where he is working in the world and how you can be part of that financially?
Do any of these words describe your giving today: non-compulsory, hilariously cheerful, stingy, robbing God, guilt ridden, well planned?*

Now let each willing man pick a facilitator and after prayer, state where you are in your giving and based on scripture and the work of the Holy Spirit, where you want to go. Our goal is to be gracious and generous men. As iron sharpens iron, use this time and these brothers to help you find a path to obedience. As each man finds clarity and completeness, let him end by kneeling with the others laying on hands and praying that this holy man will be able to find healing and hope in Jesus so that he can live a generous life.

End the work round with all men holding hands and praying the Lord's prayer together.

Check out:

How are you feeling -or- what is the gift; after doing this work on giving?