

# From the Handbook for Business, the Bible

## # 41: The world of the generous gets larger

We learn a lot from King Solomon, quoting him regularly in these sessions. He was anointed by God as the wisest man ever (1 Kings 4:31), writing some 3,000 Proverbs (4:32) or life instructions.

Some of his advice is counter-intuitive to how the world operates, such as Proverbs 11:24 -

*"Some give freely and still get richer, while others are stingy but grow still poorer" CJB*

*"The world of the generous gets larger & larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller & smaller" MSG*

He's saying, the more we give the more we will get to give...and giving never ends in poverty! In the world, the attitude is, giving means to lose something or it's a cost. And beware, much of the giving today is actually sowing, whereby the giver expects a return...which is not giving!

### What about an example to show this principle in action?

Storytime: *Once upon a time* I knew **two men**, each owned one retail consumer-goods store:

**Owner A** was stingy: one December, he promised to pay a staff bonus if sales exceeded \$x for the month; a large sale on the 31st got them over the target but the bonus was not paid because he booked the sale on Jan 2; staff not happy...and in time that business shut down.

**Owner B** was generous: He also instituted a bonus plan payable each Christmas; one year a sales person earned a \$40k bonus! This owner loves paying bonuses to his 30+ staff to reward them for helping build his business...today, he owns seven stores.

**Bottom line:** One owner was generous, his business got larger; one was stingy, his got smaller!

### Doesn't the Master establish giving as a key kingdom principle?

Yes. Jesus owns it all, including our businesses; He commands us to give to those who ask and even to those who don't; to share, to go the extra mile (Luke 6:38; Matt 5:41-42; Acts 20:35)

Apart from the joy of giving, the fruit for the giver is receiving - God's way, in His timing and His quantity. And it's amazing how often one receives a blessing just when it is needed most.

### Notice the Handbook does NOT say:

- ...That giving stops in tough economic times
- ...That we only give to the poor or organisations looking after them
- ...That only individuals give; businesses can too
- ...That blessing only flows to Christians who give (note: owner B is not a Christian).

### Should money be the main focus of our giving?

**No!** We can also give of our time & expertise; share our spiritual gift; we can encourage others; we can share the gospel; give business product; even a shoulder to cry on if needed, because...

- ...ALL we have is given by Jesus so we can give to others to glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31)
- ...He can then bless & multiply what is given to advance His kingdom
- ...God's economy is based on the principle of giving & receiving, not buying & selling
- ...Giving in all forms is the fruit of loving & communicating love, our primary marketing theme
- ...The bottom line, giving doesn't reflect **what** we do; it reflects **who** we are!

**Counsel: If you want your life, your influence, your destiny and your business to get larger and become more prosperous, then be generous always, especially in tough times!**