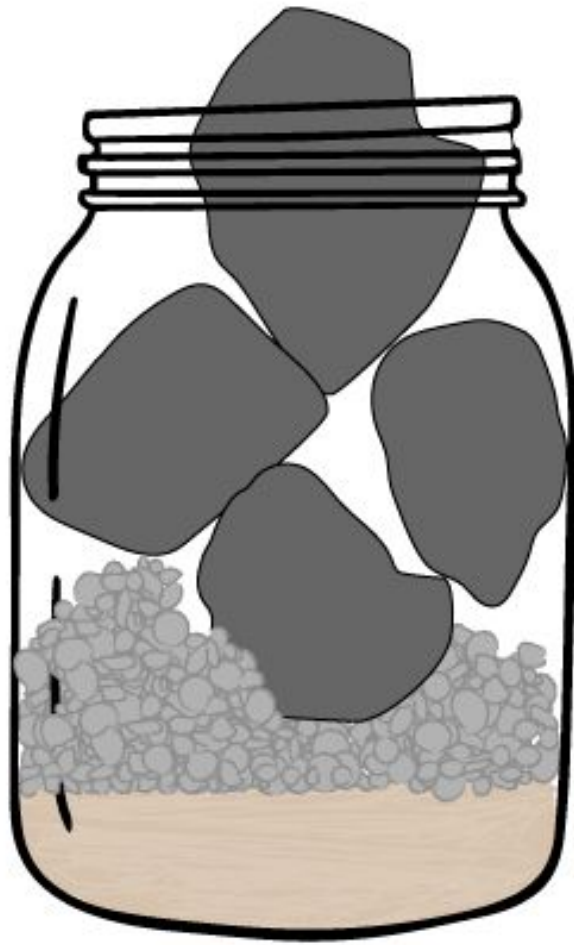
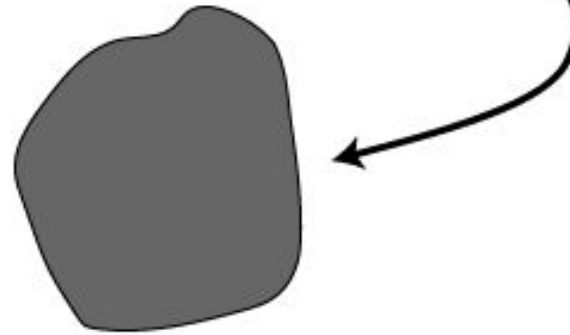


Generosity

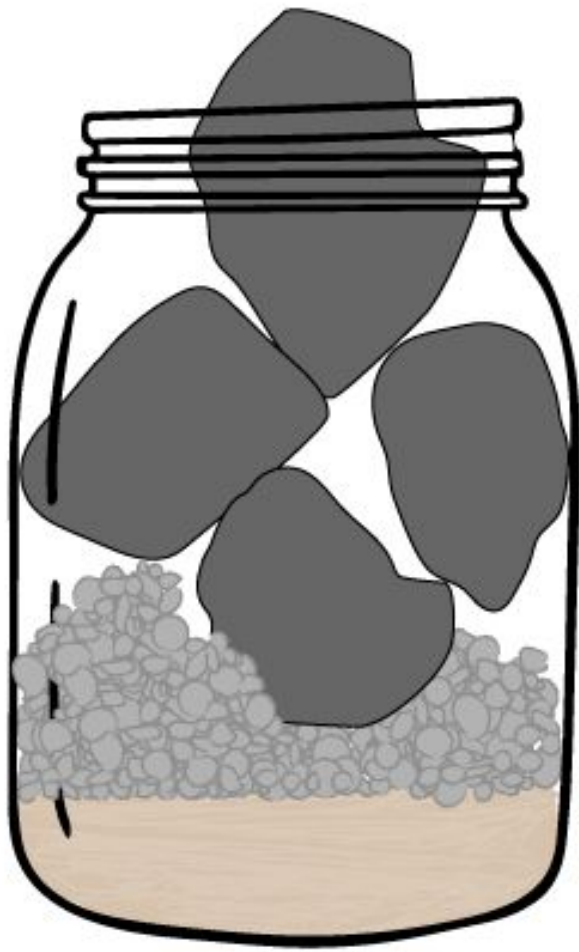
Luke 12; 2 Cor 9



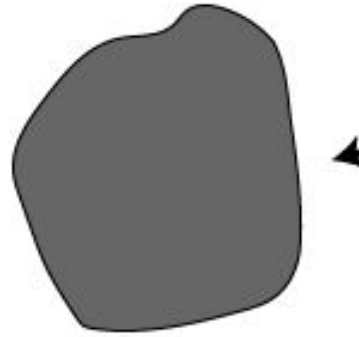
IF YOU FILL YOUR JAR WITH
GRAVEL AND SAND FIRST,
YOU WON'T HAVE SPACE FOR
YOUR BIG ROCKS



Generosity is the first priority in your budget (past essentials)



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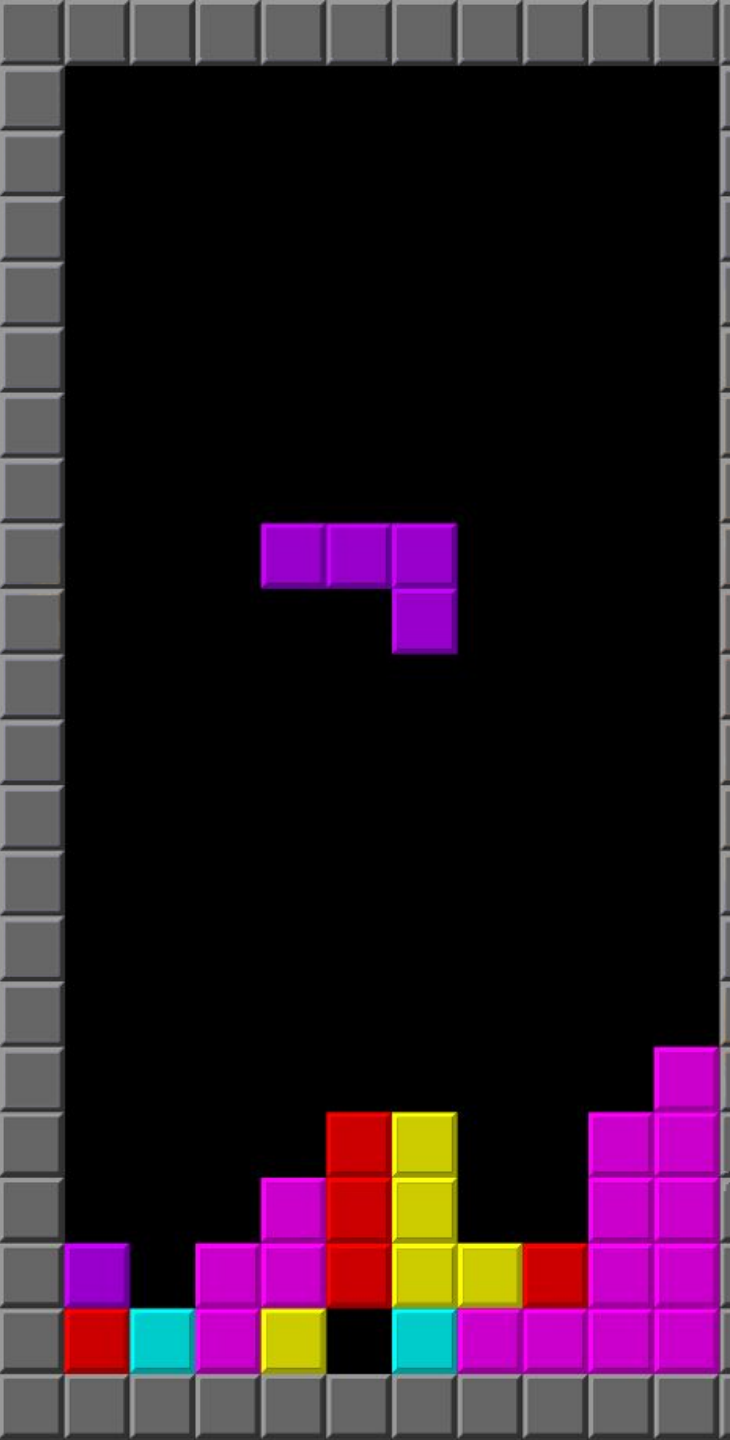


Generosity is the first priority in
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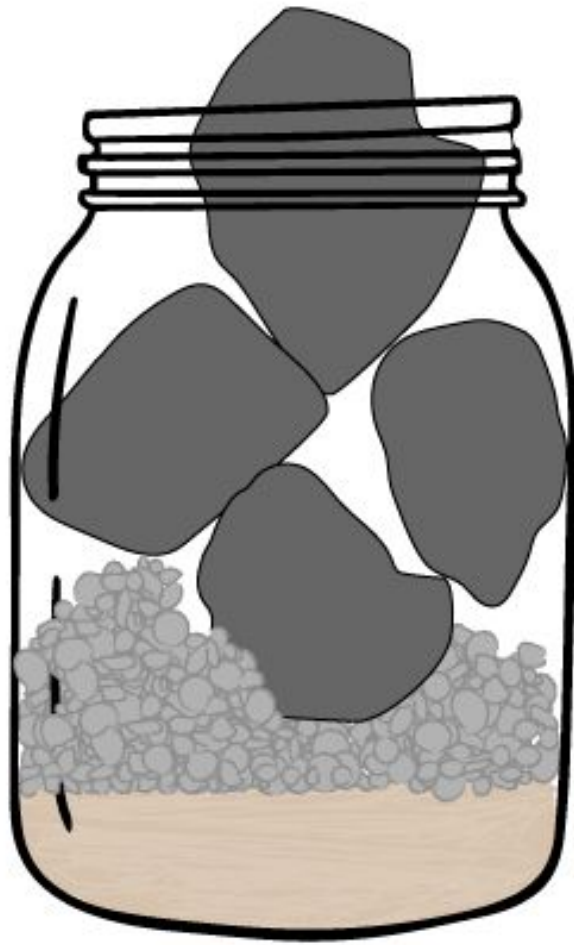


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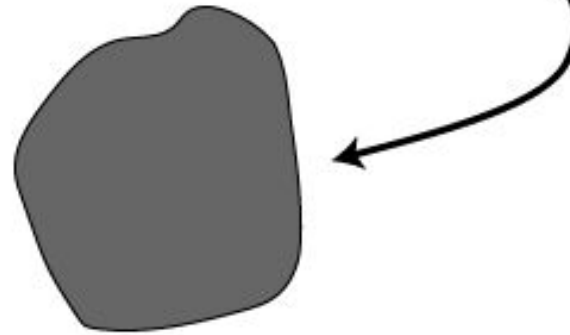


is first priority in





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Generosity is the first priority in your budget (past essentials)

Are you rich?

Answer: (probably) yes

- “Close to 46 percent of the world’s population was living on less than \$5.50 a day [in 2015]”. ([World Bank](#))
- 25% of world is “subsistence agriculture”, living on tight margins ([UN](#))
- If you’re sitting in this room, your economic life is likely better than most people that ever lived



<https://myglobalsnapshot.com/>

Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

“it is [his] refusal to use [his] abundant resources to help others which most directly demonstrates [his] lack of a right relationship with God”

~ Craig Blomberg, NT scholar, specializing in parables

What does it mean to
be “rich toward God?”

Luke 12:22-34

Are you required to
tithe?

Answer: doesn't matter

In support of the tithe:

[Dr. William Barclay](#) (Gordon, RTS)

- **Tithe to Melchizedek as NT precedent:** “the writer of Hebrews shows the propriety of Abraham’s tithe since it was given to the “priest of the Most High God”
- **Jesus upholds the tithe** in [Matthew 23:23](#)

Key: “[it is likely] the Israelites were actually required to **give 23.3 percent** of their income, not 10 percent.”

Against tithe:

[Dr. Thomas Schreiner](#) (SBTS)

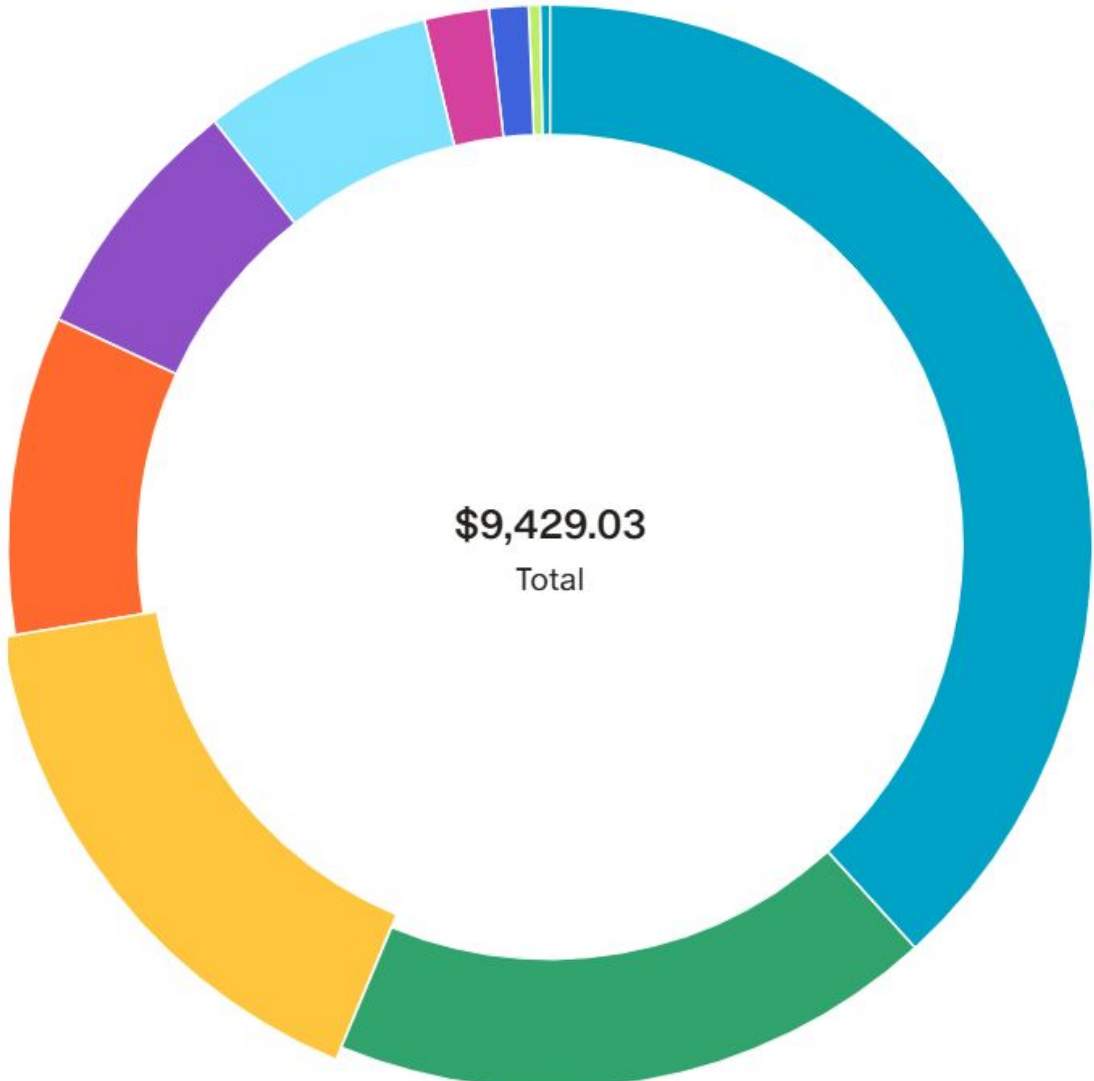
- **Tithes were given to the Levites and priests**, which no longer exist
- **Nowhere is tithing mentioned when commands to give generously are found in the New Testament.**

Key: “Since God is to be our treasure, believers are to give generously and freely. For many in the West, **this will mean giving more than 10 percent.**”

What are you doing,
Steve?

SPENDING BY GROUP

Sep 1, 2025 – Sep 30, 2025



- Housing
\$3,606.08 (38.2%)
- Food & Dining
\$1,701.62 (18%)
- Gifts & Donations
\$1,518.74 (16.1%)
- Shopping
\$895.37 (9.5%)
- Health & Wellness
\$704.66 (7.5%)
- Bills & Utilities
\$650.93 (6.9%)
- Travel & Lifestyle
\$181.09 (1.9%)
- Financial
\$110.36 (1.2%)
- Auto & Transport
\$31.94 (0.3%)
- Children
\$28.24 (0.3%)

Miller giving process

- **10% tithe before tax** – I break 10% of my yearly salary (which was \$170k last year) and break it into 24 chunks, which we auto-give twice a month to the church
- **Commit to 2-3 others for regular giving:** right now we support a kid through Covenant Mercies, an Intervarsity staff member that used to attend our church (I don't have permission to share the third currently)
- **Keep an open “impromptu giving” budget:** emergency savings (~6 months of expenses) is “for family”, and family in Christ counts!

Financial temptations (for me)

- Video games
- Impulse spending (coffee shops, eating out)
- Wanting a new house
- What should I do with my yearly bonus I get this month, one of the biggest I've ever received (gross \$25k)?

How can I be
generous?

Radical and modern

- One past church member gave 20% of his salary because he “didn’t want to be complacent or prideful in giving 10%”
- Another past church member would give her entire first paycheck of any new job to the Lord by giving it to the church
- A visiting parent recently mentioned that they hosted their current church when it started in their house “because they had the biggest house”

“Fixed income” principal

Take John Wesley for example. He was one of the great evangelists of the 18th Century, born in 1703. In 1731 he began to limit his expenses so that he would have more money to give to the poor. In the first year his income was 30 pounds and he found he could live on 28 and so gave away two. In the second year his income doubled but he held his expenses even, and so he had 32 pounds to give away (a comfortable year's income). In the third year his income jumped to 90 pounds and he gave away 62 pounds. In his long life Wesley's income advanced to as high as 1,400 pounds in a year. But he rarely let his expenses rise above 30 pounds. He said that he seldom had more than 100 pounds in his possession at a time.

This so baffled the English Tax Commissioners that they investigated him in 1776 insisting that for a man of his income he must have silver dishes that he was not paying excise tax on. He wrote them, "I have two silver spoons at London and two at Bristol. This is all the plate I have at present, and I shall not buy any more while so many round me want bread."

Practical and immediate

- Gary and Natalie carry around \$5-10 Dunkin gift cards with them to give to homeless people at any time
- All Gordon Conwell students are part of a “partnership program”, where they need fundraising support
- RUF missions’ trip that some of our members are attending
- Ask our pastors about the current missionaries our church supports
- Commit to tithe some % regularly

“There are many good things that need to be done in our world, many good causes that need support, but **proclaiming the gospel is exclusive to the people of God. No one else will do it, and no one else will fund it.**”

~ John Rinehart, founder of Gospel Patrons

How can I be
generous?

2 Corinthians 9:6–12

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

Questions?