

# December Development Guide

## SUBJECT: LIVING A LIFE OF GENEROSITY



### Our Value: Expect multiplication.

Where people spend eternity matters, so we dream big, plan big, and give big to multiply the Kingdom.

Understand that how you live your life matters; your life of generosity will produce multiplication in your own life personally, in the Church (the body of Christ), and in the lives of those you serve.

Generosity includes our money, but generosity also means, “a willingness to give help or support, especially more than is usual or expected” (Cambridge).

Living a life of generosity is all-inclusive—it’s every area of our life, not just our money.

**If you’re going to live a life of generosity and experience multiplication, there are three things you must do and they’re stated in the value: Dream Big, Plan Big, and Give Big.**

#### 1. Dream Big

You are created to have big dreams! It’s inherent within you from your Creator—Your Heavenly Father—to have “God-sized” dreams!

If we are going to live a life of generosity, we must have God-sized dreams that force us to grow and stretch, live by faith, value people and include them, and that force us to recognize and honor Him—for without Him we could do nothing!

God-sized dreams take you out of this carnal, natural, worldly realm . . . out of our petty, natural thoughts, and bring us into God’s realm and how He see things.

**Col. 3:1-2 (MSG)** – *So if you’re serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don’t shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that’s where the action is. See things from his perspective.*

**Gen. 15:5-6 (NLT)** – *Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!”*

Stir up the God-sized dreams that are inside you! Don’t let your past, your present, or your projected future hold you back!

#### 2. Plan Big

Dream Big and Plan Big work together to move us forward in living a life of generosity.

Plan Big is when you move from being just a Big Dreamer to a doer. You allow the God of your dreams to order and direct your life, your steps, and your actions in order to see fulfillment. Your faith becomes sight!

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**Jer. 29:11 (NIV)** – *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

**Prov. 16:9 (PT)** – *Within your heart you can make plans for your future, but the Lord chooses the steps you take to get there.*

**Eph 3:20 (PT)** – *Never doubt God’s mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, your most unbelievable dream, and exceed your wildest imagination! He will outdo them all, for his miraculous power constantly energizes you.*

### 3. Give Big

We serve a more-than-enough, cup-running-over God! He is the original Giver (John 3:16) and as His children, we are to imitate Him.

A synonym of generosity is “openhanded.” That’s what you need to hear as it relates to living a life of generosity and giving big. Are you openhanded? Are you going through life with an open hand or closed fist?

**1 Pet. 4:10 (GW)** – *Each of you as a good manager must use the gift that God has given you to serve others. NLT – God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.*

Giving Big within the context of a life of generosity is multiplication.

**Final Thoughts:** If you are going to live a life of generosity in our world today, you must guard your heart.

**Prov. 4:23 (NIV)** – *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

**Matt. 24:12-14 (PT)** – *There will be such an increase of the sin of lawlessness that those whose hearts once burned with passion for God and others will grow cold. But hold your hope firmly to the end and you will experience life and deliverance. “Yet through it all, the good news of heaven’s kingdom will be proclaimed all over the world, providing every nation with a demonstration of the reality of God. And after that the end of this age will arrive.”*

You’ll never be an openhanded person, living a life of generosity, with a closed heart.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What were your biggest takeaways from this teaching?
2. Do you consider yourself an openhanded person? Why or why not?
3. What God-sized dreams are you pursuing?