



PART 2: The Standard American Version

INTRODUCTION

You know how to give. Everyone gives something somewhere. We define our generosity by our random acts of goodness. But generosity is more than that. Generosity is the premeditated, calculated, designated emancipation of personal financial assets. When you become generous you give more, save more, and consume less. It can free you from the Great American Insanity Cycle of spending more than we make, accumulating debt, having no financial margin, worrying about money, and spending money we don't have in order to distract ourselves from worry.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How much more money would it take for you to alleviate your financial worries?
2. What are some reasons that we spend money we don't have? What are some of the cultural costs of that behavior?
3. During the message, Andy said, *"More money does not generate more self-control, discipline, or contentment."* Respond to that statement. How does it challenge your assumptions and behavior when it comes to your money?
4. Read Acts 12:16–21. How do you tell the difference between planning financially for the future in a healthy way and hoarding money for your security and consumption? Is there such a thing as being too generous?
5. How would your life be different if you were able to quit worrying about not having enough money or the money you have being taken away? How would that change your financial decision-making?
6. What is one thing you can do this week to begin to trust God with your finances, to live as though everything you have belongs to him? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

If you think and behave like a giver, you'll give more, consume less, and have more left over. Generous people do not assume everything they have is theirs to consume. They recognize that it all belongs to a loving heavenly Father who can be trusted to care for them. You can break the insanity by behaving like and thinking like a giver not a consumer.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

Luke 12:20–21