

If *someone* were to
evaluate your zeal for God,
what grade would they give you?
Why?

**“GROWING TO
THE NEXT LEVEL”**

#5 OF 6

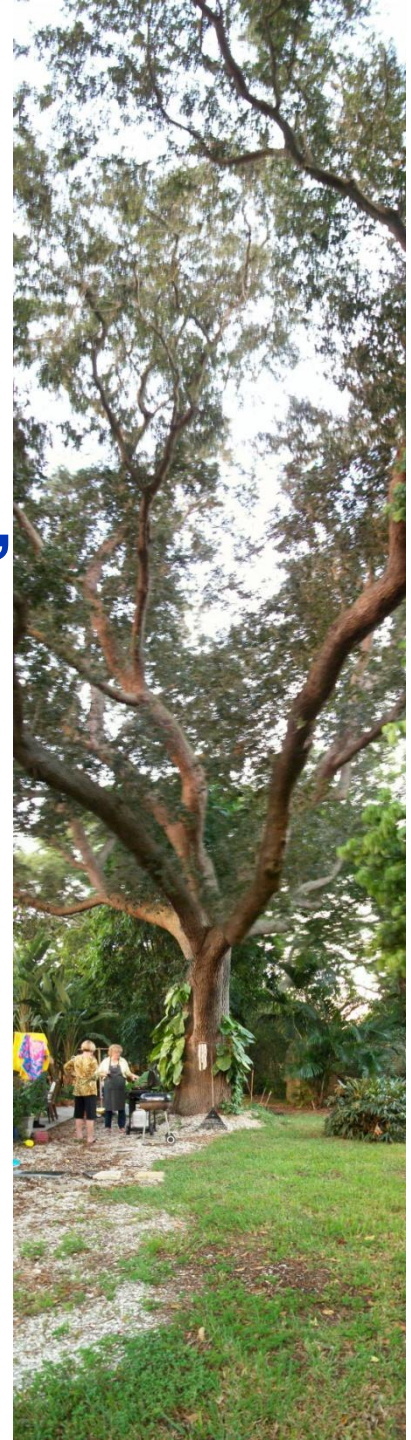
“EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY”

Ron Palmiter

UMC Certified Lay Speaker

**2 Corinthians 8:1-14
(ESV) excerpt**

Note: #4 of 6 Next Week



2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-14 (ESV) EXCERPT

¹We want you to know, brothers,
about the grace of God that
has been given among the churches
of Macedonia,
²for in a severe test of affliction,
their abundance of joy and
their extreme poverty have overflowed
in a wealth of generosity on their part.

³For they gave according to their means,
as I can testify, and beyond their means,
of their own accord,

⁴begging us earnestly for the favor of
taking part in the relief of the saints

⁵and this, not as we expected,
but they gave themselves first
to the Lord and then by the will of God
to us....

⁷But as you excel in everything in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you see that you excel in this act of grace also.....

¹²For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

¹³For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness

¹⁴your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.

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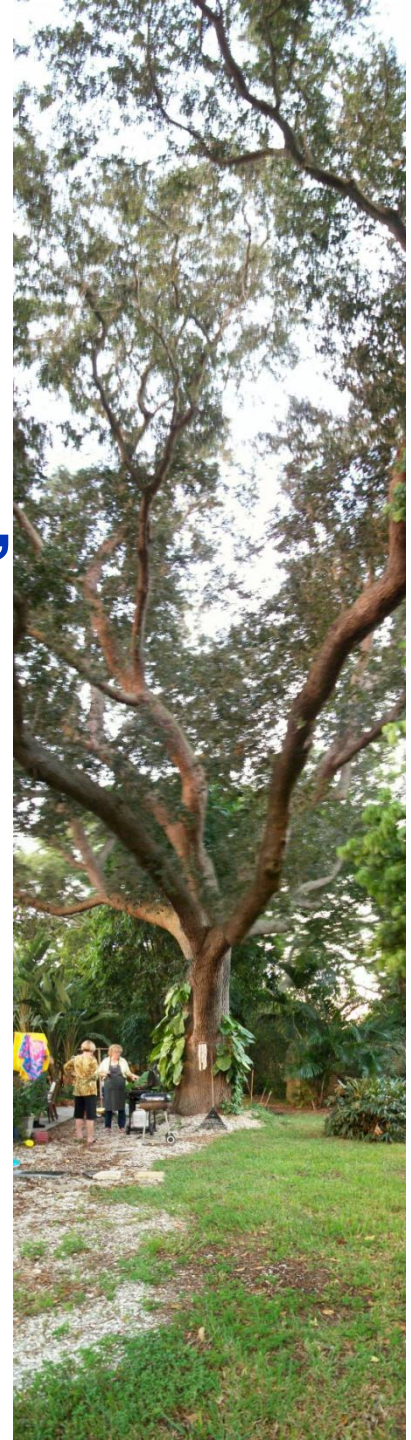
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VIDEO!

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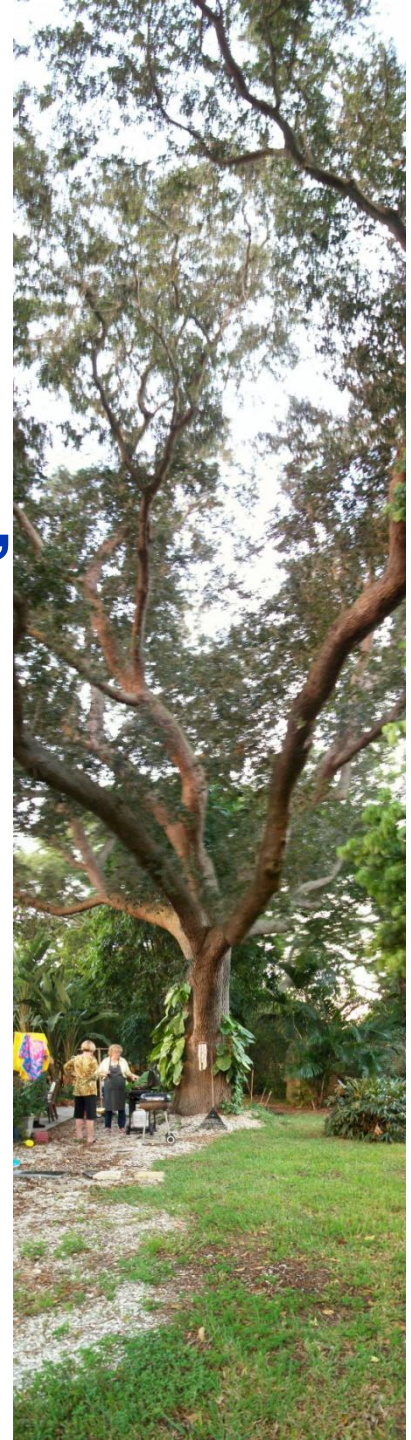
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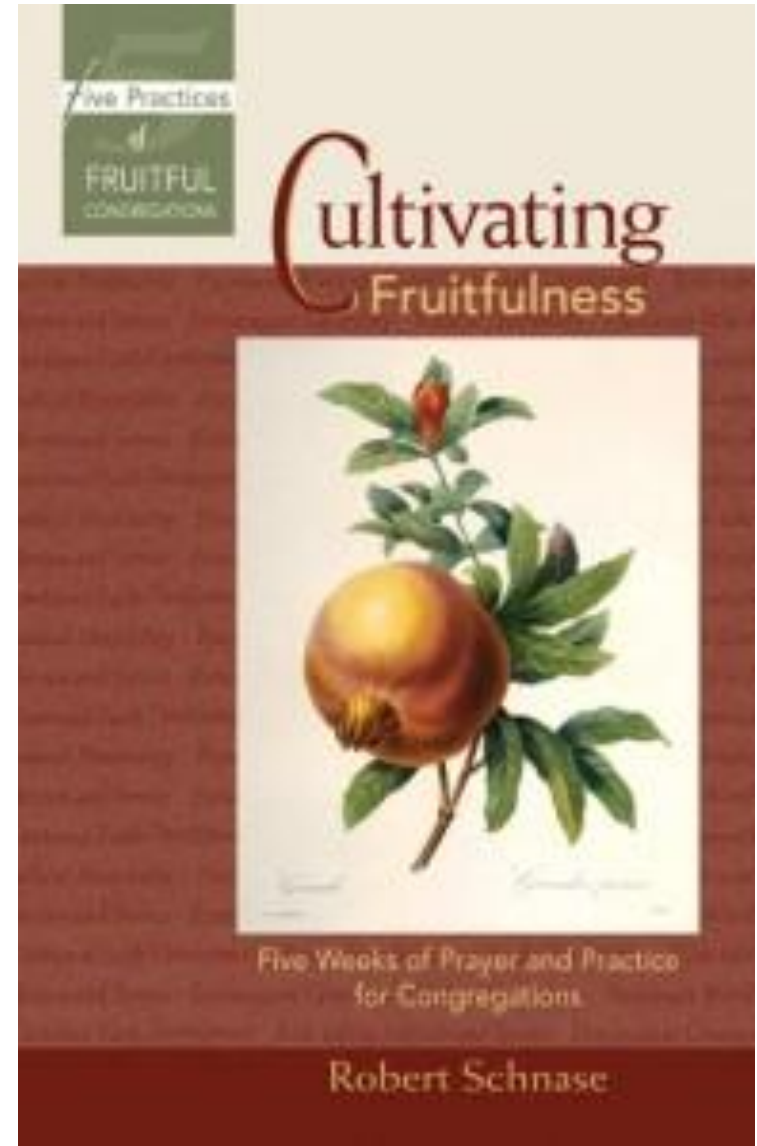


“THE FIVE PRACTICES”

- + Radical Hospitality
- + Passionate Worship
- + Intentional Faith Development
- + Risk-Taking Mission and Service
- + Extravagant Generosity

**READ ABOUT
2 PAGES A DAY
FOR FIVE WEEKS
TOGETHER**

**CULTIVATING
FRUITFULNESS
ROBERT SCHNASE,
UMC BISHOP**



RHCC's EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

Church Under the Bridge

Knit-a-Square

- Doc Harris
- George Basedow
- Speedy Williams
- Ross "Hoppy" Hopkins
- Anonymous



Beneficiaries of our Mission Group



**Sponsor
A Child**

Angel Food

VBS



Canned food drives



1. WHEN WE GIVE FREELY TO GOD, WE RECEIVE FREELY FROM GOD.

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you.
A good measure, pressed down,
shaken together and running over,
will be poured into your lap. For with
the measure you use,
it will be measured to you. (NIV)

Proverbs 11:24

One man gives freely, yet gains
even more; another withholds unduly,
but comes to poverty. (NIV)

2. WE ARE BLESSED WHEN WE GIVE.

Acts 20:35

... remembering the words
the Lord Jesus himself said:
'It is more blessed to give than
to receive.' (NIV)

3. BELIEVERS SHOULD GIVE ACCORDING TO THEIR INCOME AND SHOULD SEEK GOD FOR GUIDANCE.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (NIV)

1 Corinthians 16:2

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. (NIV)

4. DO WE ROB GOD WHEN WE FAIL TO GIVE OFFERINGS TO HIM?

Malachi 3:8

Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.
But you ask, 'How do we rob you?'
In tithes and offerings. (NIV)

5. THE PICTURE OF OUR FINANCIAL GIVING SIMPLY REVEALS A REFLECTION OF OUR LIVES SURRENDERED TO GOD.

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers,
in view of God's mercy,
to offer your bodies as living sacrifices,
holy and pleasing to God—
this is your spiritual act of worship. (NIV)

6. THE VALUE OF OUR OFFERING IS NOT DETERMINED BY *HOW MUCH WE GIVE*, BUT *HOW WE GIVE*.

Mark 12:41-44

...Many rich people **threw** in large amounts. But a poor widow came and **put in** two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." (NIV)

THE WIDOW'S OFFERING ACTION STEP 1: GOD VALUES OUR OFFERINGS DIFFERENTLY THAN MEN DO.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (NIV)

**THE WIDOW'S OFFERING ACTION STEP 2:
OUR ATTITUDE IN GIVING IS
WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO GOD.**

2 Corinthians 8:7

...as you excel in everything in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you see that you excel in this act of grace also...(NIV)

THE WIDOW'S OFFERING ACTION STEP 3: DESIRE TO GIVE ALL WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU.

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you.
A good measure, pressed down,
shaken together and running over,
will be poured into your lap.
For with the measure you use,
it will be measured to you. (NIV)

QUESTION FOR YOU TO PONDER:

If **you** were to evaluate your zeal for God in light of your checkbook, what grade would **you** give yourself?

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JOHN 3:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he **gave** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

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