

### What 101 in-depth interviews reveal about the impact of Generous Giving

#### 1

##### **People grow in generosity.**

The impact of Generous Giving is not only in the level or amount of giving, but also in the heart of people for giving, the way they think about giving, and the posture of their lives toward giving. For many, generosity becomes a lifestyle. People shift their perspective about their money and possessions to see all that they have as belonging to God. Through giving, they experience freedom and joy in releasing their lives to the movement of God.

*I think Generous Giving redefined how I think about generosity. I've been learning more about what giving may look like in more creative ways.*

*I would say that it was a heart change. When your heart changes, your mind changes, and when your mind changes, your whole life changes.*

*My relationship with money has changed. There's a joy in being generous. It's shifted from what or how I will receive to what I can give.*

#### 2

##### **People get involved in building local ministries and the local church.**

Through Generous Giving, people invest more of their lives to increase the capacity of the churches and ministries. They bring their time and talent, not only their treasure to support and sustain ministries. They think more strategically about how their lives and resources might extend the reach and deepen the impact of ministries.



*We've been partnering with our church to help people find jobs.*

*We have a building where we run our business, and we were discussing what it would look like if we donated part of that building to [a ministry partner]. The Lord provided us with this building, and we're exploring how it can be part of our giving.*



### People live more surrendered lives to Christ.

Growing in generosity prompts people to walk more deeply with God. The act of generosity reveals areas yet unyielded to the Christ and provides an opportunity for people to take steps of obedience and surrender to His will. Through giving, people develop a greater ability to trust that God will provide for their needs. They experience a richer, more vibrant, more substantial intimacy with Christ.

*It's been a journey of maturing in faith and growing closer to Him.*

*It's made me more surrendered and yielded.*

### People are orienting their lives more clearly toward the Kingdom work of God.

Because of Generous Giving, many people make significant changes to their lifestyle choices, career choices, and life priorities. They develop a clearer sense of purpose and meaning for their lives. Many have even come to see their career pursuits as a vehicle for greater participation in the work of God in the world.

*We've committed to a lifestyle we believe God has called us to—comfortable but not self-indulgent. We enjoy life and have nice things, but we've chosen to live well below our means.*

*I've been focusing on growing our business for a long time. We've been questioning the ultimate goal of expanding—is it just to make more money and buy a bigger house, or is there a deeper purpose?*

### People have greater clarity about their identity.

Growing in giving refines the sense of self. Through growing in generosity, people discover a greater sense of security in Christ. They redefine and reconstruct their measures of success. They re-orient their identity to the values of the Kingdom instead of the mores of the world.

*My identity shifted from being a business guy to seeing work as ministry. I didn't even know that phrase before, but now it feels like I'm being drawn more in that direction.*

*As a man, there's still a tendency to judge oneself based on career success and achievements. However, I've come to realize that these aren't the most important aspects of who I am.*

*It's been a reminder for me that the question of where I find my value and what my worth is has been lingering in the back of my mind for a long time.*

*There used to be a sense of keeping up with others, where your identity was tied to what you did, what you wore, and where you belonged. But now, I don't feel that way at all. My identity is rooted in being a child of God.*

### People experience healthier relationships.

Giving generously prompts people to infuse family discussions about finances and family legacy planning with generosity. It offers an opportunity for families to gather around and center themselves in the values of giving. It promotes openness and authenticity in conversations with others about money. It provides an impetus for people to reach out to neighbors, co-workers, and friends and invite them to participate in a community of generosity.

*It gave us a language to talk about money in our marriage.*

*I would say that most couples fight about money, but once you reach a common ground, it changes everything. We don't feel like we fight about money anymore.*

*With the biblical understanding of money we have now, one area where it's particularly helpful is in talking about inheritance with our family members.*