



Biblical Generosity While Growing a Business: A Kingdom-Minded Approach to Growth

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In the competitive landscape of business, the concept of generosity can easily seem at odds with the drive for profit and expansion. Yet for Christian entrepreneurs, the Bible offers a profoundly different view—one where generosity is not only compatible with business growth, but a key principle in building a purpose-driven enterprise that honors God. Growing a business while practicing biblical generosity challenges leaders to reimagine success through a Kingdom lens, where impact, stewardship, and service are just as valuable as revenue and market share.

I had the wonderful and rare opportunity to develop a relationship with the late Stanley Tamm, a successful entrepreneur whose generosity through his business, U.S. Plastics, has impacted millions around the world. Stanley wrote a book describing his attitude toward business, “God Owns My Business.” It was foundational early in my professional life for understanding the possibilities for impact of a Christian entrepreneur who is in step with God. At the core, Stanley’s was a life of stewardship and generosity. The Baton Exchange ministry (and other ministries throughout our city) has also been the beneficiary of the generosity of a local real estate investor who helped catalyze evangelism and discipleship initiatives throughout our city. Heaven only knows how many lives have been impacted because of his radical, intentional generosity and vision.

Understanding Biblical Generosity

Biblical generosity is rooted in the character of God. From the beginning, Scripture presents God as a giver—of life, creation, redemption, and grace. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave...” This foundational truth sets the tone for Christian living and, by extension, Christian business. Generosity in the Bible is not merely about giving money; it encompasses a lifestyle of open-handedness with our time, talents, resources, and influence.

Proverbs 11:24–25 highlights this principle: “One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.” Here, the paradox of generosity is unveiled—true abundance flows from giving, not hoarding.

The Tension Between Growth and Generosity

As a business begins to grow, leaders often face intense pressure to optimize efficiency, cut costs, and maximize profit margins. This pressure can lead to a scarcity mindset, where every resource is accounted for and generosity is sidelined as an afterthought or luxury. The key challenge for Christian entrepreneurs is to resist the gravitational pull of this mindset and instead adopt a posture of abundance rooted in faith.

Jesus’ words in Luke 6:38 offer reassurance: “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.” Generosity, then, becomes not a liability, but a seed sown for a future harvest.

Integrating Generosity Into Your Business Model

Biblical generosity can be embedded into a company’s DNA, not merely through charitable giving, but through structural choices that reflect Kingdom values. Here are several practical ways to do so:

1. Compensate Fairly and Generously

One of the most direct ways to practice generosity is in how you compensate your team. Fair wages, generous benefits, flexible working conditions, and professional development opportunities demonstrate a commitment to valuing people over profits. James 5:4 warns against withholding wages, reminding business owners that the laborer's work is worthy of respect and reward.

2. Practice Radical Hospitality

Create a culture of welcome and care—for clients, employees, vendors, and even competitors. This might look like extra-mile customer service, transparent communication, or offering support without expectation of return. Hospitality is a biblical virtue (Romans 12:13) that humanizes the business experience and fosters long-term relationships.

3. Share Ownership or Profits

Some Christian-led businesses adopt models that share ownership or a percentage of profits with employees. This aligns with the biblical principle of equity and communal flourishing, as seen in Acts 2:44–45, where believers shared their possessions so that no one had need.

4. Tithe from Business Revenue

Some Christian entrepreneurs set aside 10% or more of their business profits for Kingdom work—whether supporting missions, local ministries, or social impact initiatives. While tithing is traditionally personal, extending this practice into business reflects a belief that all resources ultimately belong to God.

5. Invest in the Community

Growing a business doesn't mean leaving behind your local roots. Generosity can take the form of investing in the community where your business operates—hiring locally, supporting schools, sponsoring events, or mentoring young entrepreneurs. Jeremiah 29:7 encourages God's people to "seek the peace and prosperity of the city" where they live and work.

Generosity as a Growth Strategy

Ironically, generosity often accelerates business growth rather than hindering it. Companies that lead with values and mission tend to inspire loyalty, attract purpose-driven talent, and stand out in crowded markets. Customers increasingly seek to align with brands that reflect their values. A business known for its generosity can gain both moral authority and market advantage.

Take the example of Chick-fil-A, whose faith-driven model includes closing on Sundays and generous philanthropic initiatives, or companies like Hobby Lobby, which incorporate biblical principles into both internal culture and external giving. These businesses demonstrate that it is not only possible—but powerful—to grow with generosity.

Additionally, generosity cultivates goodwill, which can translate into partnerships, opportunities, and even divine favor. Proverbs 3:9–10 promises: "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing." When businesses prioritize giving as part of their mission, they position themselves under God's blessing.

Guarding Against Pitfalls

However, not all acts of generosity are pure-hearted. Jesus warns against performative giving in Matthew 6:1–4, urging believers to give in secret and for the right reasons. In the context of business, this means resisting the temptation to use generosity as a marketing gimmick or PR move. True biblical generosity is not transactional; it flows from love and obedience, not strategy.

Additionally, business leaders must ensure that their generosity is sustainable. Overextension, mismanagement, or impulsive giving can jeopardize the health of the business and ultimately diminish its long-term impact. Wise stewardship must accompany generous intentions.

Finally, the temptation to wait to practice generosity until you’ve reached a certain cash flow or size is very real. We can always justify pushing out milestone markers and never get to practicing generosity. Build the practice and discipline right into the DNA of how you do business, no matter your size. You can adjust the volume of what you give (time, talent, or treasure) over time.

The Heart Behind Generosity

At the end of the day, generosity in business is not primarily about money—it’s about the heart. Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). Growing a business offers countless opportunities to choose what kind of leader you will be and what kind of legacy you will leave.

Will your business be known only for its products and profits, or for the lives it uplifted, the communities it served, and the love it reflected? Biblical generosity invites you to build something bigger than a brand—it calls you to build the Kingdom.

Conclusion

Growing a business and practicing biblical generosity are not mutually exclusive. In fact, when approached with faith, wisdom, and intentionality, they enhance one another. Generosity becomes a strategic and spiritual foundation upon which a God-honoring business can thrive. As Christian entrepreneurs, our call is to lead with open hands, trusting that the God who provides the increase will also provide all we need to give generously along the way. In doing so, we echo the words of Jesus: “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

ASK YOUR MENTOR

1. Has your business practiced generosity? In what ways? What would you like to do differently?
2. What has been your personal generosity journey? What have you learned?
3. What resources or concepts have shaped how you think about biblical generosity?
4. What small businesses do you know doing an amazing job practicing biblical generosity? What do they do?

Reflect & Respond/Self-Rate

To what degree have I been practicing biblical generosity through my (really, God’s) business?

1-Not at all, 5-It’s what we do! Mark your rating it an x.

	1	2	3	4	5
Compensate Fairly and Generously					
Practice Radical Hospitality					
Share Ownership or Profits					
Tithe from Business Revenue					
Invest in the Community					

Go Do

1. Ask God, “Is there anything from this lesson and conversation that You want me to start practicing? If so, what? How?”
2. Practice. How I will practice this over the next month:

Sources & Resources

God Owns My Business, Stanley Tamm

Business By the Book, Larry Burkett

<https://faithdrivenentrepreneur.org/>