



Step Eight: Can Less Really be More?



"The concept of giving is to create value for other people without expecting anything in return. It's about doing things for the greater good and not operating from a mindset of scarcity" – [Tim Denning](#)

When it comes to giving, I like to start with a baseline. My goal is always to give a minimum 10% of our net pay. If I can give above and beyond that, I do.

We consider paying our fair share of taxes to fall in the category of giving, and rightfully so. This money is earmarked for domestic aid programs that benefit the needy facing hardships, foreign aid, public projects and a long list of other things that help people who need it.

If the politicians steal or squander some of it along the way, there is nothing we can do about that. They will have to give an account to their Maker.

During those times we could not give 10% from our net pay, we volunteered our time and talents to make ourselves useful in some capacity. As of this writing, we still pick up food from grocery stores twice a week and deliver it to a volunteer-run organization called [The Mercy Warehouse](#) that provides food for needy families in the area and abroad. Wifey does a Friday run and I do a Sunday pickup.



Why do we continue to offer our time and services for free even though we are able to give a minimum 10% from our net pay? Time is money. It's even more precious than money, because money can be replaced. Time cannot.

Remember three of the main points of increasing your net worth; you will be in a much better position to do the following:

1. Bring your financial house in order
2. Launch or product or service
3. Give something back to your community and help make the world a better place

We are now freely able to do number three because we want to.

We give stuff we no longer use to charities. We've also pick up good junk from garage sales for free because people can't sell them. We ask if we can take their stuff, such as furniture and clothes, off their hands and give them to charities.

Organizations such as Goodwill and The Mercy Warehouse train people such as recovering addicts so they can become productive members of society. There is a positive ripple effect created.

Sometimes you must be resourceful when it comes to giving back and helping to make your community a better place. If you are in a pinch and giving a certain percentage of your income is part of who you are, and you need to decide on giving or putting food on the table, consider other ways until you are out of debt like getting involved with a local charity. Then you will be in a much better position to give of your hard-earned cash.



We Support Race for the Cure

I know a lot of people who want to tithe ten percent from their gross pay. That's great! But often these same people are struggling with debt, living paycheck to paycheck, and are behind on bills. Their financial house is quite the mess.

They tithe ten percent from their gross because they are told that the Bible says so. If they fail to tithe ten percent from their gross pay, not only will they not be blessed, but they may even incur the wrath of God in some form or another. They'll be cursed.

Ouch!

Okay, I'm not trying to be preachy, just reasonable—because there are many people giving out of fear. Not cool. I know some will disagree, but the tithe is Old Testament and was mandatory. The tithe is not the New Testament standard for giving. Your giving comes from the heart and people are encouraged to give accordingly, not because it is mandatory to do so.

If you want to give at least ten percent of your gross or more, and your financial house is in disarray, you may have to develop a plan of action to get you to that place.

\$10.00 this pay day. \$15.00 next pay day. Oops, missed the next one. But then you follow up with \$20.00.

It may take a few months or longer to get there. But better to have a plan that gets you there than to struggle year after year in debt. And there are other great ways to give, as we discussed in the previous paragraphs.

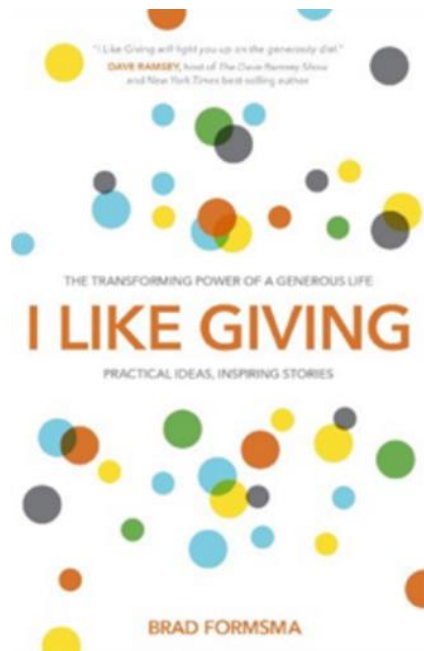
Be resourceful and happy giving!

[Call to Action](#) Giving can be joyous and tax deductible. Consult a professional for specifics. Software like TurboTax allows you to record giving money and things throughout the year, so when it comes to preparing your taxes, everything is itemized for you.

Create a plan or further develop an existing plan whereby you can find new resourceful ways to give. And ask a professional tax preparer what items you can deduct on your tax return, again increasing your overall net worth.

Recommended Reading:

[*I Like Giving: The Transforming Power of a Generous Life*](#) (224 pages)



Rich with inspiring stories and practical suggestions, *I Like Giving* helps you create a lifestyle of generosity. Inside you'll find:

- Giving—something you get to do, not something you've got to do.
- How to raise kids with a sensitivity to others' needs.
- You don't have to be a millionaire to make a difference.
- Practical ideas for giving to people around you every day.

I Like Giving is about experiencing the joy of giving. We all have something to give. Giving goes way beyond money

or things. It can be a listening ear, a touch, or simply the gift of time. Giving is living –

Amazon synopsis