

The Generosity Bet **Backgrounder**

Live Your Own Generosity Journey
Behind the Writing of William High's New Book
"The Generosity Bet: Secrets of Risk, Reward, and Real Joy"

Why be generous? Generosity is not the first tendency of people. In fact, it's the opposite—to be greedy. Why would anyone let go of something they could keep for themselves? But what happens if a person decides to let go—to take a risk—and to live generously?

In his new book, "The Generosity Bet: Secrets of Risk, Reward, and Real Joy," William High provides a lens into why people should consider a life of generosity. The generous life is a life of significance, gratitude, and joy.

"I think every man, woman and child wants to live a life of significance—a meaningful life. But somewhere along the line, we get caught up in the notion that the stuff of this world belongs to me." The Generosity Bet was written to encourage people to take the risk of generosity. Indeed, giving is the only place in Scripture where God says the believer should test Him. High said, "I've had a funeral director tell me 'You can always tell the givers and the takers at their funerals.'"

In the book, we examine the concept of living a generous life through the stories of everyday people. Each chapter is an examination of the journey of real people—struggling with their own heart, motivations, and usually a breakthrough moment.

One question that was especially meaningful in this book interview process was asking people, "What was one of your moments of great pain, that cathartic moment when everything changed?" For many people, it was the difficult moments, like anger at a father or a child's rebellion, that helped them understand their need for God and softened their hearts toward His ways. In doing so, it prepared the way for them to be open to generosity."

The book contains stories from some really well known people—Rick Warren of Saddleback Church, David Green of Hobby Lobby, Craig Groeschel of LifeChurch, and Jeremy Affeldt of the San Francisco Giants. But in every story, I hope that readers begin to find their own stories. Once you get past the outward glitz of success, you'll find that these are ordinary people who have wrestled with the same questions of how much is enough, joy, contentment, success, and the goodness of God. Each chapter has a set of thought-provoking questions for consideration as well.

My hope in writing this book is that others will be challenged to see generosity as something that can be part of their own story. It's the way to a life of joy and significance.