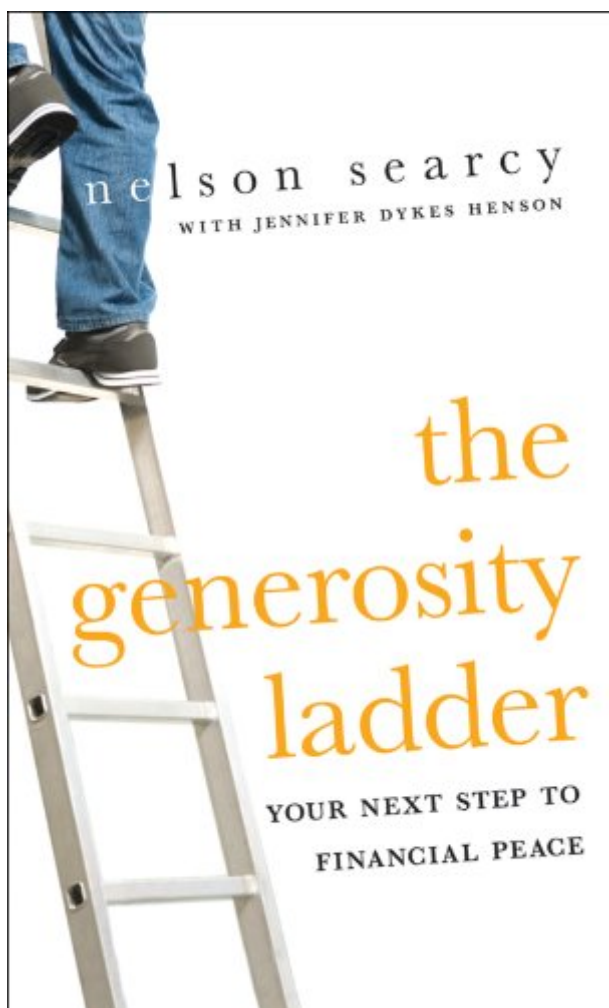


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The Generosity Ladder: Your Next Step To Financial Peace



Synopsis

The Generosity Ladder is the quintessential guidebook for anyone who desires to handle money with excellence. Written as an answer to all of the questions and misunderstandings that surround the intersection of God and money, The Generosity Ladder clarifies, once and for all, what the Bible really says about honoring God with our finances and details a step-by-step plan for attaining financial excellence. Published alongside Maximize, Nelson Searcy's much-anticipated stewardship guidebook for church leaders, The Generosity Ladder will allow laypeople to fully grasp God's plan for their finances, acknowledge their current level of stewardship, and chart out the steps they need to take in order to handle money in a way that honors God.

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Customer Reviews

Many Americans live with financial stress but long for financial peace. In The Generosity Ladder, Nelson Searcy offers practical, biblical advice for how to fulfill that longing. Searcy mentions sound financial practices such as getting out of debt, creating a budget, and living within one's means (38, 76, 103-105). But he focuses on how to "live an openhanded life," which is the essence of Jesus' teachings about money and possessions (33).The openhanded life requires a paradigm shift: "your

money is not yours. You are just a manager. God doesn't give us increase so that we can be more comfortable or advance our lifestyle. He gives us more so that we can give more" (90). But it also involves taking incremental steps toward greater levels of giving, from "initial giving" (43) to "proportional giving" or tithing (54) to "sacrificial giving" (82). And it results in blessing: "When you begin tithing, God's spiritual laws kick into high gear. Since you are honoring him, he honors you. I'm not promising his blessings are always going to be tangible. But they will be there, tangible and intangible" (73). I don't disagree with Searcy's perspective on generosity. However, I was disappointed that a book about "financial peace" focused on only one aspect of the biblical teaching on financial stewardship and dealt so cursorily with sound financial practices. The whole biblical teaching is what leads to financial peace, not merely the generosity component of it. The Generosity Ladder is short (about 100 pages), easy to read, and inexpensive (\$6.99). If you register at GenerosityLadder.com, you will receive additional resources to use with the book. However, if pastors use this book in sermon series or church members in Sunday school or small groups, they should supplement it with Christian books that address other aspects of stewardship.

Nelson Searcy has done a great job covering the basics of the Christian perspective for handling our material wealth. The book offers hope for people living under the stress of a flawed financial paradigm, providing simple and practical steps for climbing the ladder toward financial peace. The approach is clearly biblical, guilt-free, and non-legalistic. As a pastor, I plan to use this book to help the people of my congregation understand the freedom that comes through living a generous life.

Nelson produces extremely practical tools for church leaders to use with their congregations. This book continues that streak. At a time when economic pressures have strained church budgets, Nelson has served up a ready to use handbook on how individual members can take the next steps toward generous giving. I plan to use this with new givers, to encourage regular givers and as a gift for key donors. It fills the gap in a church leader's financial resource arsenal. I wish I had written it myself! Dr. S. Craig Bishop, Lead Pastor, BranchCreek Community Church, Harleysville, Pa.

This book is a quick read and provides a step by step process to become generous without getting in the weeds. The most in depth portion is written in defense of tithing, but other areas are lacking some of the same detailed focus.

Generosity Ladder is a timely resource in extremely difficult financial times. While the concepts of

stewardship, tithing, and generosity have been around for centuries, Searcy has presented those concepts in an easy to understand and practical way. I greatly appreciated how he makes no assumptions about the readers previous understandings on the subject matter, but instead starts with the premise that we all have a perspective of some kind, and that the key is shifting our perspective to a Godly one. As someone who already embraces the concepts presented by Searcy in his book, I found it to be a refreshing reminder of why I already do what I do. For those who may be experiencing these concepts for the very first time, Searcy's book will be a valuable tool to walk the individual from being a first time giver to a sacrificial one. I will be giving a copy of this book to my entire congregation and to every first time giver in the future.

Nelson gives practical methods on how to increase giving in the local church. For pastors and church leaders looking for ways to increase giving 30% and more, this book will help.

After reading maximize, I ordered this book to give to people who took the four month challenge. It challenged me.

What a sorry method of squeezing more money from the flock...If pastors spent their time teaching people how to receive God's love, and less time pushing for Old Testament tithes, the parishioners would give willingly, generously, and with joy. They'd never have to be asked, and the church would never be lacking. Those who understand that EVERYTHING belongs to God because He loves us so much and gave everything TO us never (NEVER) limit their giving. Teachings like this are putting the cart before the horse.

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