

# Taking the Limits Off God 5

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Obedience to God's instruction is the key to "taking the limits off of God."

The **key instruction** we are given in scripture is to be a **giver**.

We are most like Jesus when we are giving.

God personalizes what you do for or against HIS PEOPLE:

- Paul, why do you persecute me?
- When you've done it for the least of these...
- You aren't giving to an institution, but the family of God!

The GRACE OF GIVING is connected to an OPEN HEAVEN and living a BLESSED LIFE.

**II Corinthians 8:7** - But just as you **excel** in everything-in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us, see that you also **excel in this grace of giving.** *NIV*

## FEAR

- **FEAR** is the greatest limiting factor when it comes to **doing what God has told you to do.**
- Over 300 times in scripture we are told to FEAR NOT.
- FEAR will hold you back from your NEXT STEPS in taking the limits off of God!

## 3 Kinds of Giving

1. Tithe – Provision in MY HOUSE
  - TEST ME
2. Offering – Reduce Debt
  - Harvest depends ENTIRELY
3. Extravagant Gifts – Projects - Rarely celebrated

**II Corinthians 9:13** - You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts. **NLT**

**Many extravagant gifts in the Bible:**

- David gave billions in today's dollars.
- Mary poured perfume valued at year's wage upon Jesus.
- 11 of the 12 apostles were martyred.
- Many have been EXTRAVAGANT to get us here!
- I am persuaded that every Christian will be asked by God to GIVE EXTRAVAGANTLY at different points of their lives.

**I Kings 19:4** - Elijah went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "**I have had enough**, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."

**God tells him to:**

1. Go anoint Elisha to take your place
  - Prepare the Next Generation
  - The ministry wouldn't die with Elijah
2. There are 7,000 who are mine and you are not alone
  - I have prepared people for this purpose, not you.

**Mark 10:28-31** – <sup>28</sup> Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!" <sup>29</sup> "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive a hundred fold as much **in this present age** (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields-and with them, persecutions) and **in the age to come**, eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last first." **NIV**