

Paying it Forward

There's no proof that giving will improve your financial life.

But it will.

I'd like to provide a factual, objective answer to why it's important. I'd like to share a story that illustrates how someone's personal financial health improved simply through giving. All the stories I have to share are anecdotal; there is no proof.

What there is, though are centuries of teaching that giving is a spiritual necessity. Indeed, within many faiths, it's a cornerstone of the spiritual practice. Giving is also personally important, impacting how we feel about ourselves and how we feel about supporting the communities that we are a part of and the causes that we believe in. It is by combining our resources that much of our communities are built and sustained.

Becoming prosperous is when you are centered enough financially that you can help someone else. Many of us, though, think that we'll give when we are able; when we have 'enough.' However, one of the cornerstones of what you are learning in this book is to start now. Don't mean wait until you can give your favorite charity \$1,000 or even \$100. If you can give \$5 right now, give \$5. Weave it into your spending plan right now.

We each have different levels of personal integrity when it comes to giving. Some of us believe it's important to give a percentage of our income; others might believe it's not really important at all. Search within yourself and find the amount that feels right. And if you don't currently have a community or cause that you feel compelled to give to, set up a separate account and name it "My Giving Account, transferring your monthly 'Contribution' budget in each month. If giving hasn't been a cornerstone of your financial life previously, observe how you feel when you transfer the money into the account, or how you feel when the amount grows. Observe how you feel next time you have an opportunity to give to something that really matters to you, or pulls your heart strings.

"It is a commonly accepted metaphysical principle that tithing brings prosperity."