



I Like Giving: The Transforming Power of a Generous Life

Brad Formsma

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When you choose to live a generous life, you start to change and so does the world around you. Something incredible happens when giving becomes your own idea, not something you do out of duty or obligation.

When you move from awareness to action, miracles happen. As you make giving a lifestyle, you'll realize you're not only loving life more, you're also creating a more generous world—a better world for all of us.

Rich with 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.

I Like Giving: The Transforming Power of a Generous Life Details

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Author : Brad Formsma

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From Reader Review I Like Giving: The Transforming Power of a Generous Life for online ebook

Eric says

A fairly easy and quick read. Very inspirational about how to live generously without becoming a guilt trip.

Jon Stephens says

The book I Like Giving (releasing on Feb. 18/14) is written by Brad Formsma, the creator of ilikegiving.com.

I Like Giving is a very personal and human look at generosity. The book is made up of numerous stories from people who stepped out to participate in various compassionate and creative acts of generosity. What I appreciate about this look at generosity is that it isn't solely focused on financial generosity. The sky is the limit on how we can be generous and give in powerful ways to those around us.

Although the book talks at length about the beauty of giving, it doesn't romanticize it, and instead honestly addresses the challenges that can accompany giving. Sometimes being generous is awkward and sometimes people will reject our generosity, but that shouldn't stop us from being generous people. Another aspect of giving that the book does a great job at unpacking is being good at receiving. Often times we are great at giving but we are poor at being the recipient of someone else's generosity. This was a great reminder about allowing others to receive the blessing of giving by being good at receiving.

On top of the great content in the book, it is also a very attractive book and is laid out in a really interesting way.

Here are a few of my favorite quotes:

“When we choose to give, we change, and the people around us change. When we move from awareness to action, miracles happen” (p. 6).

“Sometimes we need to give more than other people need to receive” (p. 50).

“...my compassion can't be directed by other people's decisions” (p. 88).

“...the lines between giving and receiving disappear. You might see yourself as a giver in one situation but realize that the blessing you receive from giving is so great that you are really the receiver” (p. 172-173).

I would definitely recommend this book as a practical and inspirational look at generosity.

Check out ilikegiving.com for more information, short films, stories and more. You can also follow this movement on Facebook and on Twitter (@ilikegiving).

Blog: www.jonathanstephens.wordpress.com

Twitter: @jonstephensNY

Lynne says

I Like Giving is a book that belongs on every bookshelf! This book is inspiring, heart-warming, and above all has changed my view of giving. The book is filled with wonderful stories of giving; not just giving money, but time, experience, a kind word, a gesture. The stories encompass a great range of ages and experiences. The author, Brad Formsma does not "sugar coat" the giving experience. He talks about when giving "gets messy" and when you are rejected as a giver. He also talks about the "Science of Giving" in chapter 5. One of my favorite quotes from the book is "sometimes the line between giving and receiving disappears". Awesome and so true! This book has transformed my family. My young children often ask me to read stories from the "book with dots". We are becoming a generous family. We visited the website affiliated with the book www.ilikegiving.com and watched some fanatic short giving videos. This book and website are highly recommended. It will change you and your family.

Sara says

This is a collection of stories from random people about giving. Most of them involve giving money or material goods to strangers. Of course, it's great to be inspired/encouraged to look for these opportunities and act on them. However, I was hoping for more depth so I found it kind of disappointing.

Kelly says

I have a passion for volunteering and helping others and this book just further fueled that passion. It gave me ideas for more ways, both big and small, that my family and I can make a difference. A couple years ago, my birthday request was that we do a day of random acts of kindness. It's still one of my favorite days we ever spent together as a family and I think my husband and kids would say the same. There are so many ways you can turn someone's day around and maybe even make a big impact on their life. This book has many of those ideas and will inspire the reader to think of their own as well. "Contribution" is one of my focus words for this year and some of the ideas I read here will be a part of that. If you're looking for more ways to give back, to find a purpose beyond your own small world, to show your children the value of a life that is about more than just their own wants and desires, I definitely recommend this book.

Barbara says

A great book that will leave you feeling energized to give!

Allison says

Generally inspirational and interesting but overly religious for my tastes. A bit more "chicken soup for the

soul" than I was hoping for on this topic.

Molly Ann says

I Like Giving is a fabulous, enjoyable, inspirational book! I enjoyed every page! Full of inspirational stories and practical giving ideas, this book was hard to put down! The author, Brad Formsma, did a wonderful job walking the reader through the generosity journey. I have never experienced a giving book quite like this. It did not hit you over the head with theology and Bible references, rather it took the reader on a journey of JOY! After reading this book I am finding myself following the "nudge" that Formsma references in the book; I am looking and listening for more giving opportunities, I am living a more generous life. I am thankful that I read this book because it truly has changed my self-focused look on life. A great read for anyone! I highly recommend I Like Giving!

Jamie Crosby says

Review:

I received this book from Blogging for books for free for an unbiased review.

I, always, aim for a just review. I try to take into account a lot of different things; from the audience it is intended for, compare it to other books like it, my personal opinion does have some weight but not as much as one would think. (Or at least I am trying harder ever review I write for this to be the case) I tell you this because I was completely thrown off by this book. I accumulate a lot of information about the author and the book before I even start to read it. Nowhere was there any mention of any religious connotation whatsoever. I am not against religious books or anything written with a religious undertone to it. But I would like a fair warning. This book is not at all publicized as being a religious piece. This can be a problem for many people who pick up this book as a way to better their lives, who don't want to religious sermon.

This book is advertised as a way to change people's lives for the better. Helping others with your generosity, ideas on how to do this was a great idea. This book ended up being stories of inspiration with religious undertones. I also had a huge battle throughout this book dealing with the extent of giving. The author goes to say "we also know this type of life is available to anyone, no matter who you are, where you live, or how much money you have." And then goes to say "you have to be willing to go on a journey that will be scary and uncomfortable at times...." Which I think frightens the readers into wondering which direction to go. This book walks a fine line between giving to others in need and "giving the shirt of your back". I am all for giving what I can when I can but I am not apt to put myself or my family into a position that leaves my family high and dry. I am not like the author willing to sell my business to work for a non-profit organization and wonder if I am going to have to sell my house. I am more apt to make hats and scarfs for homeless or less fortunate people than myself. Or even pay for a dinner for someone who needs one.

I was hoping for a book with "practical ideas and inspirational stories" like the cover said. I didn't find much of these stories as practical. Though practical is a relative term, what is practical for someone with extra money and what is practical for someone just scraping by is another thing entirely.

Jeremy Gardiner says

I just checked off "a book about Christian living" from my 2018 reading challenge. I read "I Like Giving: The Transforming Power of a Generous Life" by Brad Formsma. Most of this book is "giving" stories which I did find motivational. Hearing different ways people gave helped kickstart my own brain to think of ways I could apply this in my own life. However, I was disappointed that almost all giving was "humanistic" rather than "God-gloryifying". Meaning it wasn't giving "in Jesus name" (Mark 9:41) but rather giving for the sake of giving where ultimately the person who gave or anonymous "good people" get the praise. A better approach is that a person "let[s] [their] light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matt 5:16). I want my giving to bring glory to God, not to me or to "restore faith in humanity" (as mentioned in one story in the book). Having said that, I don't want to be super critical because the author is better in this discipline than I am. I have more to learn from him than he has to learn from me in this area.

Joan Concilio says

I highly recommend you read this and pair it with Cami Walker's 29 Gifts. Together they have done much to change the way I look at life.

L.A. says

A warm-and-fuzzy case for generosity.

Formsma's gentle pep talk, with religious undertones, is a good fit for collections where Christian/inspirational literature are popular. The bulk of the book is made up of personal stories about people who changed other people's lives with their generosity. Although it's routinely stressed that a gift doesn't have to be large to have an impact, many of the examples involve large, sweeping gestures (replacing a hot water heater, crowd-funding a semester of someone's tuition, paying for someone to take their nursing board exams, etc.). If your faith encourages tithing and/or you really love reading heartwarming stories about people being nice to other people, this is the kind of book that will brighten your day. And if you just can't get enough of the positivity, there's a companion website with more stories and videos you can check out. Purchase as demand warrants, and definitely include this if you're in charge of a church library.

Michelle says

It was very inspirational and the personal stories and ideas were motivating to me. Worth reading!

Cindy Navarro says

I Like Giving by Brad Formsma is a book that focuses simply on the joy of giving. There is a lot on financial giving, but also plenty of stories about other forms of giving as well. He admits that his family do have the

financial resources available to meet the needs of others, and I love how they look for opportunities. His family does have rules on how much to give without having a family discussion. Generosity is wonderful, but boundaries do need to be set. The stories of financial giving in the book vary from one person giving, a few friends giving, on up to someone creating a Facebook Event to help a fellow student who was struggling. Sometimes the act of allowing others to be a part of the giving effort is its own act of giving.

The stories are not strictly about money, but suggest other ways to make a difference. Through a series of small anecdotes entitled "I Like.....", we learn of opportunities people shared of giving time, a smile, a second chance, etc. Some required more sacrifice than others, but all agreed that it was worth any sacrifice made to make a difference in the life of someone else.

One of the ones that made me smile, and enforced the idea of training our children in the way they should live involved potty training. Not only was this 3 year old little boy in the habit of wasting food, but he was also in no hurry to be potty trained. When his mom explained to him about other people going hungry due to lack of food, he asked how they could help. His mom got creative and resourceful by suggesting that the money they spent on Pull-Ups could be used to help people who are hungry. He went on to have the pride of knowing he was in "big boy underwear", but that he was also helping others. A very large lesson for a small boy, but one that needs to be learned early.

Some of the stories may seem redundant, but I can't name one I would omit. Not only is this a book that makes you feel good as you rejoice with both the recipient and with the giver, but it is one that make spark ideas on ways you can make a difference. A quote by Henry Nouwen on the 'I Like Giving' website is, "Every time I take a step in the direction of generosity, I know I am moving from fear to love". I love the encouragement to give whatever it is you have to offer, and that this is not just about giving to the poor. People from all walks of life can use encouragement and your gift, no matter how great or small, can make a powerful impact on both the recipient's life and your own.

Thanks to Shelton Interactive for giving me the book at no cost for review purposes. I was not required to give a positive review.

Melody Slagter says

Practical advice on how to live generously. Personal stories explain how giving, either financially or with time, impacted the lives of others as well as their own life. Now I'll just need to apply it so I can also live to give :)
