

# The 90-Day Prosperity Experiment

## Day 13: Getting It Right *by Kate Nowak*

Hello from my heart to yours!

In her book, *My Grandfather's Blessings*, author Rachel Naomi Remen tells the story of how her grandfather, an Orthodox Jewish rabbi, explained the eight levels of "charity" or ways giving to others to her when she was only five years old. To make the complex teaching easier for her to understand, the grandfather broke it down to its most basic wisdom.

Here is the way he taught it to her:

**At the eighth and most basic level of giving to others**, a man begrudgingly buys a coat for a shivering man who has asked him for help, gives it to him in the presence of witnesses, and waits to be thanked.

**At the seventh level**, a man does the same thing without waiting to be asked for help.

**At the sixth level**, a man does the same thing openheartedly without waiting to be asked for help.

**At the fifth level**, a man openheartedly gives a coat that he has bought to another but does so in private.

**At the fourth level**, a man openheartedly and privately gives his own coat to another, rather than a coat that he has brought.

**At the third level**, a man openheartedly gives his own coat to another who does not know who has given him the gift. But the man himself knows the person who is indebted to him.

**At the second level**, he openheartedly gives his own coat to another and has no idea who has received it. But the man who receives it knows to whom he is indebted.

And finally, on the **first and purest level of giving to others**, a man openheartedly gives his own coat away without knowing who will receive it, and he who receives it does not know who has given it to him. Then giving becomes a natural expression of the goodness in us, and we give as simply as flowers breathe out their perfume.

"At the time," Remen explained, "it was very important to me to be good and to do things right, and I listened to this description very carefully: 'I will only do it the right way, Grandpa,' I assured him. He began to laugh. 'Ah, Neshume-le,' — *beloved little soul* — he said to me tenderly, 'Here we have a special sort of thing. Suppose we all gave to those around us as the first man does, begrudgingly offering a coat we have bought in the presence of witnesses to someone who has a need and who asks us for help? If we all did this, would there be more suffering or less suffering in the world than there is now?'

"I thought for a long time, the need to do it right battling in my with the simplicity of my grandfather's question. 'Less suffering, Grandpa,' I said finally in some confusion. 'Ah yes,' he said, beaming, 'this is true. Some things have so much goodness in them that they are worth doing any way that you can.'

"Unquestionably there are ways of giving that may diminish others, stripping them of their dignity and self-worth. We can learn how to give without taking something away, and often we can learn as we go. But according to my grandfather, it is better to bless life badly than not to bless at all."

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I wanted to share this beautiful story with you because I know from my own experience and from correspondence with participants that a common concern is that we are either not blessing correctly or our decision to give to another is coming not from the heart but from a belief that we must give in order to be worthy of be blessed ourselves.

But as Remen's grandfather pointed out, both blessing and giving are so filled with goodness that they are worth doing any way we can. There will be days when you feel like blessing and days when you don't. Bless anyway. You will be glad you did.

There will be days when you feel good about placing money in your container and other days when you are filled with doubt. Place the money in there anyway. You will be glad you did.

There will also be days when you do not want to read your Prosperity Business Plan because you are certain it will never come into being. Read it anyway. You will be glad you did.

And, of course, there will be days when you want to quit the Prosperity Experiment altogether, when you feel like you are going nowhere and it is not worth the effort to continue. Continue anyway. You will be glad you did.

I promise.

### Today's Action Step:

1. Re-read your Prosperity Business Plan.
2. Place today's allotment of money in your container and read the affirmation on the container three times.
3. Bless those around you, including your fellow participants in this experiment. See those you bless prospering and surrounded by good. Then bless yourself and see the same. You may also want to continue blessing those on the blessing request list.
4. Return to the blessings requests and read the responses being posted by those who have been blessed. (you will find a link at the bottom of this email, or simply go to [bettertobless.com](http://bettertobless.com) and click on "Request a Blessing") Your blessings are making a difference. Reading the responses will give you an opportunity to see for yourself.

### Today's Quote:

"Just to live is holy. Just to be is a blessing."

— Martin Buber

### Today's Affirmation:

"Even when it feels impossible I can still be a blessing to the world."



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