

The 90-Day Prosperity Experiment

Day 24: What Do You Expect? *by Kate Nowak*

Hello from my heart to yours!

From the time we are little most of us are told over and over that it is better to give than to receive. By the time we reach adulthood, this old adage has been so completely entrenched into our way of thinking, that it is not uncommon for us to believe those who are readily open to receiving are, if not downright self-centered and greedy, at least darned close to it.

The idea that giving is better than receiving comes from a verse in the book of Acts in the New Testament where Paul credits Jesus as having said so. Since Paul does not elaborate, most assume that giving is somehow holier than receiving and let it go at that. And unfortunately, the idea that giving is holy and receiving is not has proved over the years to be such a convenient truth for those on the receiving end to teach to those on the giving end, that eventually the teaching became a well-accepted and deeply ingrained spiritual truth for a great portion of the world population.

But no matter how much better we may think giving is, the fact is we can't give until we have received. We are all part of the give and take of life, the universal dance of balance, the ebb and flow that keeps everything in divine right order. And until we have something, giving isn't possible. That's why, just as the shore

must accept the tide before it can let it go back out, so must we be open to receiving before we can give to others.

In the past three and a half weeks, giving has been a daily part of this experiment. As you bless others and place money in your money container daily, you are actually completing the first step in this universal formula. But if you don't complete the second part of the process, which is to expect to receive in return, you'll close the channel through which any good can flow and at the end of this experiment, you will, in all likelihood, be about where you were when you began it.

Chances are good that up until now, you haven't really been expecting a return for what you've been giving out. Receiving seems so unnatural to most of us. Much of the time, we don't even accept compliments graciously, much less willingly open ourselves to accepting those things upon which monetary value can be easily placed. We tell ourselves that expecting to gain from what we give is tantamount to sin and so squash down every expectation of return. But in truth, both giving and receiving are part of the celebration of life. One can't happen without the other. We must be willing to both give and receive. And if you're not, maybe it's time for you to start flexing your expectation muscles.

In his book, *The Key*, author Joe Vitale writes that some time back, he decided to adopt the belief that every time he spent or gave money away, it would be returned to him ten times over. He worked on instilling this belief into his mindset until, sure enough, he began to notice a tenfold return.

"I consciously chose this belief that the more money I spend, the more money I will receive," Vitale writes. "Now, that does not make any logical sense. If I tell it to an accountant, to a bookkeeper, to a banker, they're all going to say, 'Ah, Joe, if you spend money, you will have less.'"

"But I'm coming from a reinterpretation of how it works, And so I spend money and as soon as I do, I start looking around, thinking, 'Wow, I wonder where 10 times that amount is going to come from.' So, I'm more easily led to buying things and spending money, but because I have an expectancy that more is coming in because I'm spending money, it always comes in, and it overflows to the extent that I can create good causes and contribute money to them. I can help other people -- I've helped my family, and I've helped friends. And, of course, I can indulge in things like buying expensive cars when I already have cars and I work at home. I don't even drive anywhere."

The truth is, we can have anything we want, but first we must mentally accept it. Until we do so, chances are overwhelmingly good that it won't come, no matter how much we want it and think we have to have it. And the primary key to mental acceptance is to be both willing to give and to expect a return.

As Mary L. Kupferle writes in *God Never Fails*, "Most of us want to be good givers. We are eager to share all the fine and lovely things of life with others, but we sometimes forget that we must take the time and thoughts for receiving. "

In the past three and a half weeks, you've proven that you are a good giver. Now its time to prove that you're a good receiver, too. So beginning today, start to consciously expect a return on all you give out to the world. Make it a 100 percent return, a tenfold return or a thousand fold return, if you wish. But begin right now to expect a return on everything you give out and every cent you spend.

Every time you spend a dollar at the store, expect to see at least that much easily and effortlessly coming back to you. Every time you place money in your container, expect that for every cent you give, more will be given back to you. See yourself opening to allowing more and more good into your life in every way you can. Visualize it, affirm it and believe it.

Receiving is a vital part of the process, and if you aren't willing to receive, the process can't be completed.

How do I know this is true? Because the same fellow who said it better to give than receive also said, "Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over."

Now that's something to visualize!

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. Expect to receive in return.
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'll find a link at the bottom of this email, or simply go to 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.

