



# **Giving It All Away...and Getting It All Back Again: The Way of Living Generously**

*David Green*

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## **Giving It All Away...and Getting It All Back Again: The Way of Living Generously** David Green

David Green believes that generosity and building a legacy based on giving can lead to getting back what you *really* want: a family that stays together, prays together, and shares life joyfully.

Green tells the story of caring for the small things and starting Hobby Lobby in their garage. He shares the difference between the worlds of “having and hoarding” and a world of “giving and generosity,” the principle of working for God and not for men, and that now is not too soon to consider what you want your legacy to be.

As proof of how living by those principles can change your life, Green shares that when Hobby Lobby came close to bankruptcy in 1986 and when the Supreme Court challenged the Hobby Lobby’s right to life beliefs in 2014, the company emerged with its integrity intact.

Green sees the life of giving as a life of adventure. But it’s a life that pays the best rewards personally, offers a powerful legacy to your family, and changes those you touch.

## **Giving It All Away...and Getting It All Back Again: The Way of Living Generously** **Details**

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# **From Reader Review Giving It All Away...and Getting It All Back Again: The Way of Living Generously for online ebook**

## **Holly says**

David Green believes that generosity and building a legacy based on giving can lead to getting back what you really want: a family that stays together, prays together, and shares life joyfully. Green tells the story of caring for the small things and starting Hobby Lobby in their garage. He shares the difference between the worlds of “having and hoarding” and a world of “giving and generosity,” the principle of working for God and not for men, and that now is not too soon to consider what you want your legacy to be. As proof of how living by those principles can change your life, Green shares that when Hobby Lobby came close to bankruptcy in 1986 and when the Supreme Court challenged the Hobby Lobby’s right to life beliefs in 2014, the company emerged with its integrity intact. Green sees the life of giving as a life of adventure. But it’s a life that pays the best rewards personally, offers a powerful legacy to your family, and changes those you touch.

I must admit that I picked up this book on the same week that Hobby Lobby was (once again) in the public spotlight - this time for the Iraqi artifacts. However, I tried very hard to be a tabula rasa during the reading. The book is about family businesses, and the lessons that the Green family has learned with their business, but it's not just for those with a business - it can be useful for anyone who feels that they have something to pass on. It provides examples of situations where you can help others, and some where you may want to pass. There is discussion of the process of passing the family business down from one generation to the next, and how to decide which family members are to receive said business. There is also a lot of discussion on building the business internally, with not only customer but employee satisfaction, and establishing a good moral base in the company. Again, some of my reading was colored by current events, but it's a good read for anyone considering a family business.

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## **Lauren Green says**

I love this book. And not only because my grandfather, David Green, is the author. This book has years worth of wisdom on important topics such as family, work, and long-term vision. The book begins by challenging the reader to live life intentionally thinking long term- encouraging the idea of leaving a legacy long after we are gone. It walks through stories the author lived through, such as the struggles of the Supreme Court battle for Hobby Lobby, an experience in the 1980s that almost brought the company to bankruptcy, and the path that lead the family to sign away the rights to the company. Even though I have lived the stories in this book, I still gained much wisdom through its pages!

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## **Kamryn Adams says**

This will be a go-to book for a long time. I’ll probably read it once a year for the rest of my life. Full of insight and wisdom for building a true family legacy it challenged my current definition of legacy and had me rethink my vision for the family business. A must read for every Christian entrepreneur.

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## **Rachel B says**

I'm sorry to have to give this only two stars. I did agree with much of what Green writes here about how to handle money and especially liked his guidelines on transferring wealth to future generations.

That said, the book is less than 200 pages, so I thought it would be a quick and easy read; yet I *struggled* through this. It's repetitive, dry, and a bit unfocused. I couldn't figure out if Green was trying to write a how-to manual on wealth management for Christians, or if he was writing Hobby Lobby's memoirs.

I was also turned off by the fact that every "good" decision Green shares is one made by himself or his family; any examples of poor decisions were his observations of other individuals not blessed with his same wisdom.

I think this could be edited quite a bit more (hopefully it will be, as I'm reading an ARC), to the point where it could easily be reduced to 100 pages or so.

I would also suggest that Christians interested in learning how to manage their money biblically read Randy Alcorn's *Money, Possessions and Eternity* or his shorter book *The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving*.

*I received this book from the publisher via NetGalley.*

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## **Cassandra says**

I received a complimentary copy.

At first I felt like the author was a big shot showing off what he gave in a flashy way and really just absorbing the whole book on him and Hobby Lobby. It was a way in my mind for him to add gloating and show how much money he has had and gives but I also found it sad that he chose to give only to a cause which send out religious materials to other countries.

I know that religion is a great gift for some. Could you imagine for a second if he chose to give millions of dollars to the USA in hopes of freeing our country from poverty and hunger or sickness.

What if he choose a few different states to give the 250,000 to for them to help with our much needed causes instead of the organizations that will print materials for people to find God.

I know that people think that other countries are in more need than our own and I get that we need to provide relief for them, but we can only be strong when we as a nation are stronger. I think the best thing the author mentioned was the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation because at least I know that he is aware of more important causes.

It is like he is playing God with his family and choosing the fate of people, but at the same time saying that God is the reason he does it. I felt like the book was just a way for a rich man to get some facetime and for

him to spend his money in another way. Generosity has no bounds but when you take time to write a book, it is like you expected the reader to give you a blessing instead of being a blessing.

I also feel like there are so many levels of poor and to talk about having groups where rich people gather to give each other a pat on the back for the money they give is just sad. When I personally have to drive a car that is beyond repair and struggle for basic needs on a daily basis as a single mom, I just feel sick when I read about a person who gives to needs people can not really use. Unless they are planning to build a fire with the reading material in the philippines to stay warm or cook, I just do not see how helpful it is to give even bigger organizations more money to print and destroy more of our resources like trees, as a way to help.

Maybe I am just touchy on this subject or perhaps only a poor person can see the truth on this matter, but either way I was thrilled to finish reading this because I could not believe that someone would write and really believe they were giving the world another great material to learn from.

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### **Jeanie says**

**God owns everything and he wants us to be good stewards of everything he has put into our hands. We all have wealth, our intellectual capital, our social capital, our emotional capital, our spiritual capital, and our financial capital. Being good stewards produces responsibility and we need to be found faithful. Faithful stewardship leads to generosity and great joy.**

David Green is CEO of Hobby Lobby. He tells the story of how he and his wife started in the garage in Oklahoma and with the mindset of God owning everything and kingdom building. With that mindset, they have found success in many different forms. I was impressed with the community that they had within their family. Building responsibility with their children using biblical principles found in the bible. What a great resource for families to build responsibility with the goal of generosity.

The book is found with 5 parts

\*\*A Radical Way of Living

\*\*It's All God's

\*\*Giving It All Away

\*\*The Legacy of Work and Family

\*\*The Eternal Legacy that is Right Now.

Along in this journey, he shares the battle that Hobby Lobby fought with the government and the faith that pressed the company on. With great urgency, he encourages his readers to come along with the journey that Hobby Lobby and the Green family have taken. The journey of faith and generosity.

*A Special Thank You to Zondervan and Netgalley for the ARC and the opportunity to post an honest review.*

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### **Christy Bower says**

When I saw David Green's book, Giving It All Away . . . and Getting It All Back Again, I expected an epic tale of a billionaire who did exactly that—gave it all away. I hoped it would be more than a rags-to-riches story. I anticipated a story of David Green going from great riches as the founder of the retail giant, Hobby Lobby, moving to rags as he gave it all away, and then back to riches as he got it all back again.

Instead, I found the first half of the book discussing his lawsuit against the United States. He admitted that he had written most of the book before the lawsuit came up so he put the book on hold and added this information later, but it should have been a book of its own. The added content deviated from the message of the book (as intended).

While I'm on the subject of David Green's lawsuit, I might comment how much he preached the need to obey governing authorities, to render unto Caesar by paying taxes, and to submit to governing authorities. Yet, he defied the government. I suppose he did so through the appropriate legal channels. What if he had lost? Would he have disobeyed? The Bible doesn't say to obey the government only when you agree with it. No, Peter urged persecuted Christians to obey the governing authorities in the midst of unjust persecution.

Moving on, about halfway through the book, there was a chapter or two about how he gives away half of the profits of Hobby Lobby: "The more this business gives, the more God blesses us to keep giving." For a brief time, the content seemed to fit the title of the book.

Then he spent the last third of the book discussing in minute detail how he intends to distribute his wealth after he's gone. This seemed so unnecessary because almost no one is in the position to have that kind of wealth. I don't know why he felt he had to describe the intimate details of what his family will do with his wealth. It felt wrong to be reading this and a little eerie or bizarre.

This book was disappointing, but it did contain a few worthwhile nuggets of truth in a couple chapters on generosity.

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## **Mark Wheeler says**

David Green, the founder and CEO of Hobby Lobby, believes that the rule of generosity, the rule of giving, is the foundation for building a lasting legacy. In the early part of the book, he explains the concept of legacy.

Leaving a legacy is about succession—those who follow after us... "When all is said done, your ability as a leader will not be judged by what you achieved personally ... You will be judged by how well the generation behind you did after you were gone. Your lasting value will be measured by succession."

Later in the book, he explores the meaning of generosity.

My journey into generosity has shown me two important things, among others. First, generosity has a starting point. You don't just wake up one day and poof, you're generous. It begins with a decision to steward your resources with a heavenly mindset. Second, generosity depends not on how much money we have but on the posture of our hearts. Too often we think of generosity as the sharing and giving of money. But that's a shallow definition. Generosity goes much deeper.

Part of the book is a memoir where Green talks about lessons instilled in him by his parents. He also describes what the family experienced when they sued the US Government over Obamacare and the case went all the way to SCOTUS, the US Supreme Court. The rest of the book explains how David and the Green family developed their convictions and commitments towards generosity and how it impacts their business, Hobby Lobby. He also describes their approach to wealth management and passing on wealth to children and grandchildren.

In the final chapter, he lays out the family's basic ideas regarding wealth, business, and generosity.

- We are not owners of anything. God owns everything.
- God wants us to be good stewards of everything he's put into our hands.
- We all have wealth—our intellectual capital, our social capital, our emotional capital, our spiritual capital, and our financial capital.
- Stewardship produces responsibility: as stewards, we need to be found faithful.
- The great joy of stewardship is generosity: giving it away because we get it all back again in the form of joy.

While the book is very simple, straightforward, and easy to read, it will stretch your thinking on the subject of generosity and passing wealth on to the next generation.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the publisher through the BookLook Bloggers book review bloggers program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own.

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### **Shirley Brosius says**

In this book, David Green, founder and CEO of Hobby Lobby, shares his philosophy of generosity and the results it has had in his family and his business. He writes, "At the core of any meaningful life and legacy has to be a vision for generosity, an understanding of what it means to be a blessing to others."

According to Green, it starts with a decision to steward your resources with a heavenly mindset. That was his reaction when Hobby Lobby was taken to court for refusing to pay for birth control medications that induced what he considered abortions. Green and his family, who runs the business with him, agreed that their business belonged to God, whatever the outcome. They won the legal battle.

While it's not a biography, the book includes interesting tidbits about Green's background. His father, a pastor, was disappointed when Green did not enter ministry of some type. But Green followed his passion to enter retail sales, and now Hobby Lobby gives away half its profits.

Green stresses the book is not about riches, but about leaving a legacy. His parents were poor, yet they left a legacy of generosity. He suggests setting goals and if you own a business, developing mission and vision statements.

A Reader's Guide closes out the eleven chapters of this short book, making it a good prospect for small group study.

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### **Andy says**

If you're interested in passing down your values to your children or grand children, this book might be very



important to you. David Green has been blessed with amazing wealth and even more importantly, amazing vision. All of us have seen how too much money given too quickly to young adults can do more harm than good. The Greens have worked hard to pass along their Christian values over dollars.

It's not a necessarily interesting story, but not every important message needs to be interesting. I'm glad I read it.

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## **Connie says**

The author, David Green is the founder of the largest privately owned arts and crafts retailer in the world. At one point, in the eighties when profits were good, Hobby Lobby had expanded into selling things that proved to be unsuccessful and the company was in the red. Green called together a family meeting, and after telling them what was going on, his oldest son, Mart said, "Dad, it's okay. Our faith is not in you—it's in God. If we lose the business, we'll still be okay." That was the most important thing I got from this book. It is filled with faith.

I had heard of Green before this book came out since he is well known for suing the federal government in a case that went all the way to the Supreme Court. As a Christian he would not support the idea that private companies must provide life-terminating drugs to their pregnant employees or pay severe fines, and at the time, that was the law. People who opposed Green's beliefs set up Facebook pages against his company. Of course, there were also many who supported his decision. After months and months of waiting, they won. In this day and age it's good to see a Christian company win a battle like that. (Today I saw a number of people online remarking about an article saying many companies offer paid maternity leave and he does not. He does, however, pay over twice as much as minimum wage)

David says throughout the book that the company belongs to God. He donates 50% of his profits to organizations that share the good news in many ways. He treats his employees exceptionally well; they make a fairly decent living compared to those who take jobs like this for other companies. On the other hand, he's quick to point out that he doesn't plan to promote one of his very own children to a CEO position unless that child shows he is worthy. From what I can gather, his children and grandchildren aren't to expect anything special from him; they are all expected to have jobs and earn their own way. I can't help but feel a bit as if he doesn't feel as if he can trust them with the company or money for that matter. His own children weren't given cars; one child said he saved for a car from the age of 9 and couldn't afford anything nice. While I agree that children should work for the things they want, I also don't think it hurts to help out a child who really wants something and has worked hard; why not chip in something? It seems a little bit as if he doesn't trust what ? their upbringing ? them ? I don't know. This verse came to mind from the Bible:

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

I think he needs to trust that he did the best he could, and God will do the rest. He doesn't have to set up everything so tight that he can still have it all under his control even when he's passed on. Although that is the end he is working toward.

This is an interesting and informative book with some very thought-provoking views.

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## **Wendy says**

This book is written by the CEO of Hobby Lobby. He stresses how he grew his business from his garage when he started making picture frames. Now that it is one of the most profitable businesses in the US, Green wants to make sure that the profits just don't go to waste at the hands of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He and his entire family have set guidelines based on the Biblical principle that everything we own is God's, on loan to us. A very inspirational book, not only for business owners but also for individuals!

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## **Brenda says**

I wondered if I would like this book, since I do not agree with all of Mr. Green's policies, but I had nothing to fear. This is a wonderful book, guide even, on how we should leave a legacy for our family. 50% of all profits from Hobby Lobby go to Christian charities around the world. Mr. Green's idea is that we are responsible for more than leaving money to our children and family, and that the most important resources that we leave are our values, beliefs, and morals. He explains his families legacy and how they got to where they are now.

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## **Ellie Sorota says**

David Green tackles wealth, business, estate planning and generational handoffs in one book. I enjoyed reading his take on generosity and hearing how his company has built generosity into it's core values from how it pays it's employees to what the company does with its profits. I didn't rate the book higher because he seemed a bit repetitive (but perhaps that's because we already saw eye to eye and there was no need to convince me), and because I'm not a business owner so it was less applicable. However, I was certainly challenged to build more giving into my day.

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## **Jeff Wofford says**

If you're a Christian concerned about the best ways to think about money and to give, you'll benefit from this book. If you're in business, you'll benefit from it greatly. And if you're of such an age that you're thinking about retirement and eventually leaving an inheritance, you'll find his book to be indispensable. It's not the best-written book (though it's not badly written). It's not always the clearest: many of the chapters have an unstated, ambiguous theme. Yet the essential message and, perhaps even more importantly, spirit comes through vividly and nourishingly.

God owns everything. We are stewards. Inherited wealth is deathly dangerous. Train your family in the use of wealth. Involve them in making decisions. Reward hard work, not position. Convert your wealth into gospel fruitfulness, because nothing else lasts.

These themes come through loud and clear. And David Green has the authority, wit, and candor to get us to

believe them and to even act on them.

Any book that changes both your ideas and your actions to be more Christlike is worth—literally, for once—its weight in gold. So it is with this one.

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