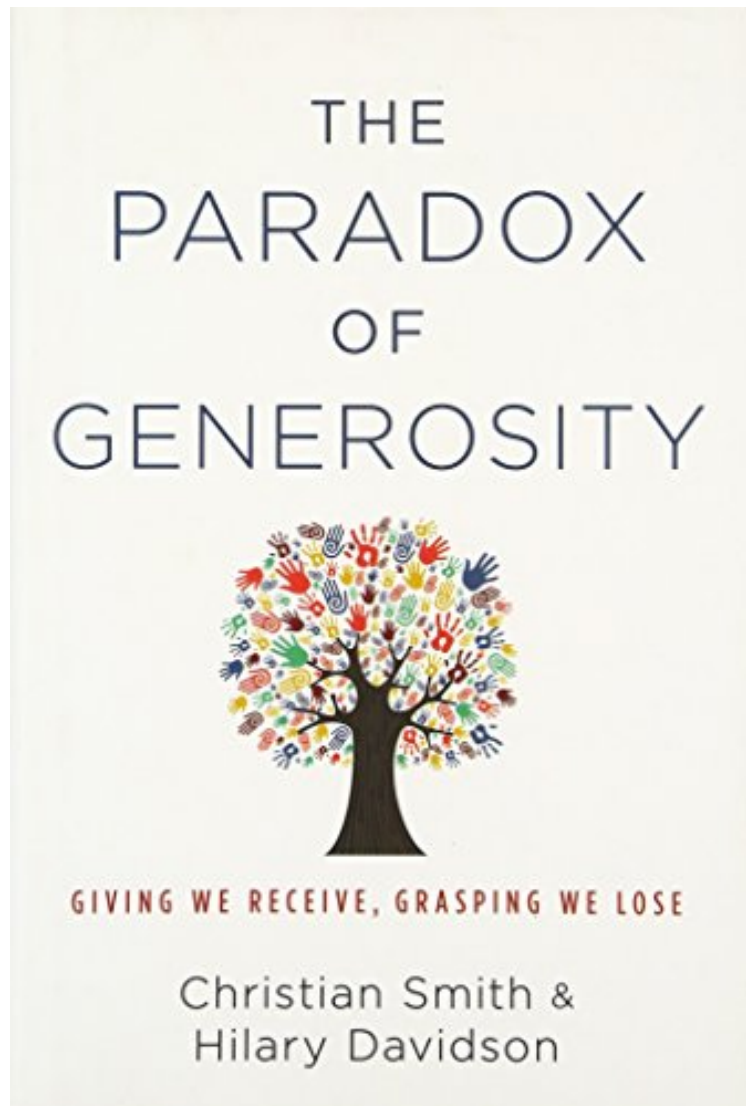


The Paradox of Generosity: Giving We Receive, Grasping We Lose

Christian Smith, Hilary Davidson

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#429065 in Books Christian Smith Hilary Davidson 2014-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.50 x 1.00 x 9.20L, .0 #File Name: 0199394903280 pages The Paradox of Generosity Giving We Receive Grasping We Lose | File size: 41.Mb

Christian Smith, Hilary Davidson : The Paradox of Generosity: Giving We Receive, Grasping We Lose before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Paradox of Generosity: Giving We Receive, Grasping We Lose:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Science Corroborating Ancient Wisdom By Bern Giving is not a panacea. Giving doesn't guarantee riches. Using the scientific method, Smith and Davidson, demonstrate factually what great thinkers have understood as truth for thousands of years. It is a fascinating study in what could be

considered self destructive behavior as so many of us remain ungenerous. It is also a fascinating study in guiding principles that transcend time, religion, and philosophy of the power of giving. Even before this book, I've always talked with Scouts who take Personal Management about their understanding of giving (Requirement 3.g.). This book will add insight and weight to the perennial challenge I issue to Scouts to give and prove what has been taught throughout humanity's existence about giving. While there are not too many things I really expect Scouts to remember from merit badges, even one as important as Personal Management, this notion of consciously practicing giving is something I hope they do. The empirical evidence presented in the book is structured in a way that is compelling to help make it unforgettable. They show that all things being equal, those that give are relatively better off than their peers who do not. This holds true across economic quintiles as well as across the spectrum of health conditions. Two people in the same quintile, and of relatively similar health situations will be happy based on the degree of giving to which they commit. This doesn't negate ambition, or a realistic understanding of one's state, it simply emphasizes how giving establishes our connections as humans leading to the blessedness and intrinsic joy that comes from giving of both resources and time. One point they make, is that by committing to the act of giving first, a conscious effort to more effectively manage the remainder takes place and this is in evidence in the research. The evidence is that those who give tend to have better control over their finances and time than those who do not. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in this topic as a student of life, Scout leaders who teach Personal Management Merit Badge, and to church leaders seeking to engage a deeper understanding of these principles in their congregations. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An awesomely positive and very scholarly book. By Lisa Brandt This is a seriously researched and scholarly book that is nevertheless easy to read because the text is aimed at the general reader, while the supporting detail is in the thorough endnotes. As a practicing Buddhist, I was taught that generosity is the easiest of the great virtues because it is self-rewarding, that is, it makes you feel good when you do it. This book reports on extensive research that shows that there are many provable benefits to generosity, some of them unexpected (generous people better understand and control their finances than ungenerous). Although the book is lengthy and stuffed with facts, it is not hard to keep reading. It is positive and uplifting, making the reader feel that humanity has a core decency that may not always manifest, but has positive effects when it does. I would highly recommend this book not only to those who are interested in human motivation and neuroscience, but also to persons like fundraisers for charitable organizations. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. You'd be surprised at how little you know as to ... By LWD01915 You'd be surprised at how little you know as to why and who (even yourself) give. (hint-most do NOT do it take advantage of saving on taxes). It's far deeper.

Determining why, when, and to whom people feel compelled to be generous affords invaluable insight into positive and problematic ways of life. Organ donation, volunteering, and the funding of charities can all be illuminated by sociological and psychological perspectives on how American adults conceive of and demonstrate generosity. Focusing not only on financial giving but on the many diverse forms generosity can take, Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson show the deep impact—usually good, sometimes destructive—that giving has on individuals. *The Paradox of Generosity* is the first study to make use of the cutting-edge empirical data collected in Smith's groundbreaking, multidisciplinary, five-year Science of Generosity Initiative. It draws on an extensive survey of 2,000 Americans, more than sixty in-depth interviews with individuals across twelve states, and analysis of over 1,000 photographs and other visual materials. This wealth of evidence reveals a consistent link between demonstrating generosity and leading a better life: more generous people are happier, suffer fewer illnesses and injuries, live with a greater sense of purpose, and experience less depression. Smith and Davidson also show, however, that to achieve a better life a person must practice generosity regularly—random acts of kindness are not enough. Offering a wide range of vividly illustrative case studies, this volume will be a crucial resource for anyone seeking to understand the true impact and meaning of generosity.

"*The Paradox of Generosity* is a winner. It's a terrific book full of interesting and important data and insights and, more important, meaningful lessons for each of us and for all of us. Parents should make this book required reading for their adult children as a roadmap to greater happiness, health, and purpose in life." --Jack Brennan, Chairman Emeritus, The Vanguard Group "It is a sociological fact: by giving ourselves away, we flourish!" Smith and Davidson provide data to support the truth of that statement as they unpack the rich learnings of Notre Dame's 'Science of Generosity Initiative.' A must read for scholars, health professionals, nonprofit leaders, fundraisers, religious practitioners. But more: it written for anyone who in their giving and living want to live well and make a difference." --William G. Enright, Director of the Lake Institute on Faith Giving, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indiana University "...compelling and well-researched... the book argues that the regular practice of being generous with our money, time, and relationships enhances happiness." --Publishers Weekly "...[Fascinating]... I'm grateful for [the authors'] extensive research and careful presentation of the results. The charts, data, and lengthy interviews found in *The Paradox of Generosity* should satisfy skeptics and scholars. They have employed the language of academia to describe in new ways something that has always been true: That generosity feels good, and is good for you..." --

Englewood of Books "Smith and Davidson paint a rich portrait of the generous and ungenerous family, using excellent data." --CHOICE "This is a cogent, clearly written book that deftly weaves theoretical concepts and quantitative data into an intriguing account of generosity and how, precisely, it facilitates health, happiness, and purpose in life." -- American Journal of Sociology

About the Author Christian Smith is William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Sociology at the University of Notre Dame, Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society, Director of the Notre Dame Center for Social Research, Principal Investigator of the National Study of Youth and Religion, and Principal Investigator of the Science of Generosity Initiative. He is the author, co-author, or editor of numerous books, including *Young Catholic America*, *Souls in Transition*, and *Soul Searching*. Hilary Davidson is a PhD candidate in sociology at the University of Notre Dame. With Christian Smith, Kari Christoffersen, and Patricia Snell Herzog, she is a co-author of *Lost in Transition: The Dark Side of Emerging Adulthood*.