



**DEVOTION:** January 1

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*Giant Steps for a New Year*  
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The small books of the Bible are fascinating to read. Often small books of the Bible such as Jude, Ruth, Esther and Philemon are overlooked and rarely studied by many believers today. Let us consider some giant steps from the small book of Philemon that, when implemented through our stewardship commitment, will be heartfelt in our lives and the lives of others.

**GIANT STEP NUMBER ONE:** *Discover Refreshment as a Christian Giver*

Have you ever been refreshed with an ice cold cup of lemonade on a hot summer day? The Apostle Paul offered Philemon opportunity for refreshment as a giver in the way he would view Onesimus. He encouraged Philemon to no longer see Onesimus as a piece of property, but as a fellow believer changed through the touch of the Master's hand. If you desire refreshment as a giver, begin to see others as persons of worth.

**GIANT STEP NUMBER TWO:** *Discover Profitability as a Christian Giver*

Many today are consumed in finding a way to be profitable in terms of their financial portfolios. A greater profitability comes when we view things from an eternal perspective instead of merely financial ones. A believer's profitability should be measured by investing in the Lord's work.

**GIANT STEP NUMBER THREE:** *Discover Gratitude as a Christian Giver*

It is difficult to teach anyone to show gratitude. Opportunities are given daily for us to show gratitude to others in the home, business, community and church.

**GIANT STEP NUMBER FOUR:** *Discover Eternal Significance as a Christian Giver*

If you really want to impact eternity, you can. You can impact eternity by living as a committed Christian. You can do so through your giving. You can do it by sharing the good news of Christ with many who need the Lord.

**WHAT GIANT STEPS DO YOU NEED TO WORK ON TO BECOME A STRONGER STEWARD IN 2017? WHAT OTHER GIANT STEPS WOULD YOU ADD TO THESE FOUR AS AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO OTHERS?**