

# EXTRA

GRACE REQUIRED



PART 6 The Sponge

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*"It is more blessed to GIVE than to receive."*

ACTS 20:35

*"I did not come to be served, but to serve,  
and to GIVE my life as a ransom for many."*

MARK 10:45

*"God so loved the world that he GAVE."*

JOHN 3:16

**The Father, Son and Holy Spirit give;  
likewise, we are to give.**

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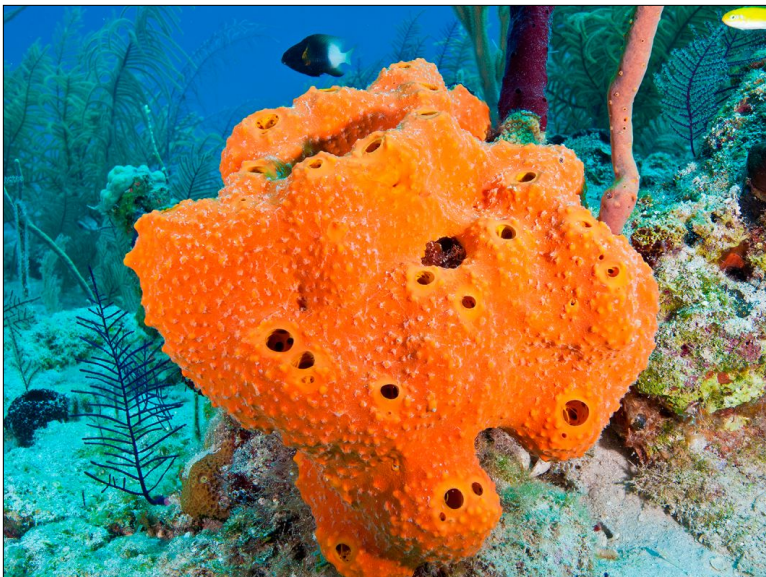
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*Easy come, easy go,  
that's just how you live oh  
Take, take, take it all,  
but you never give*

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*"Givers are...usually the most  
[relationally] attractive—and the most  
likely to have long-term relationships."  
EMMA SEPPÄLÄ*

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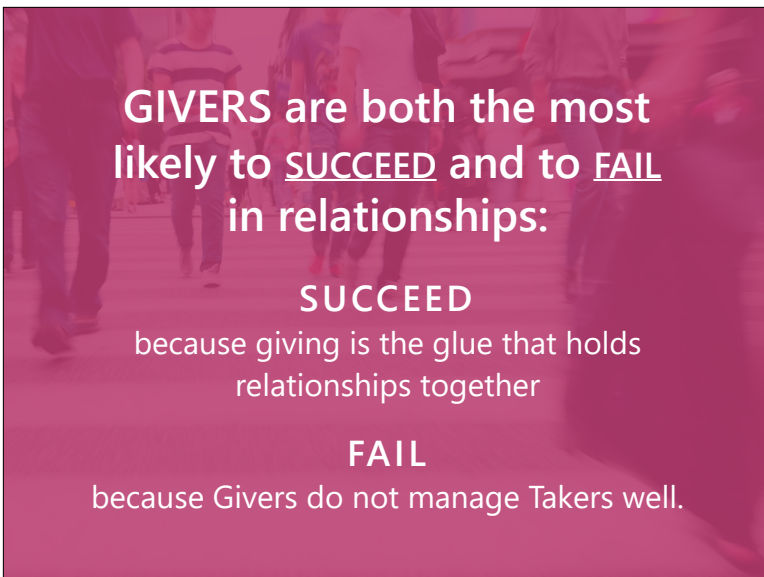
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**GIVERS** are both the most  
likely to SUCCEED and to FAIL  
in relationships:

**SUCCEED**

because giving is the glue that holds  
relationships together

**FAIL**

because Givers do not manage Takers well.

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## Takers rarely see themselves as taking.

*"In thirty years of practice, 80% of the Takers I've seen [actually] insist on seeing themselves as givers."*

BILL MCDONALD

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## THE UNHEALTHY DYNAMIC OF UNDISCIPLINED GIVING

- 1 **Enabling:** the Giver feeds the Taker's addiction.
- 2 **Co-dependency:** the Taker feeds the Giver's addiction of needing to be needed.

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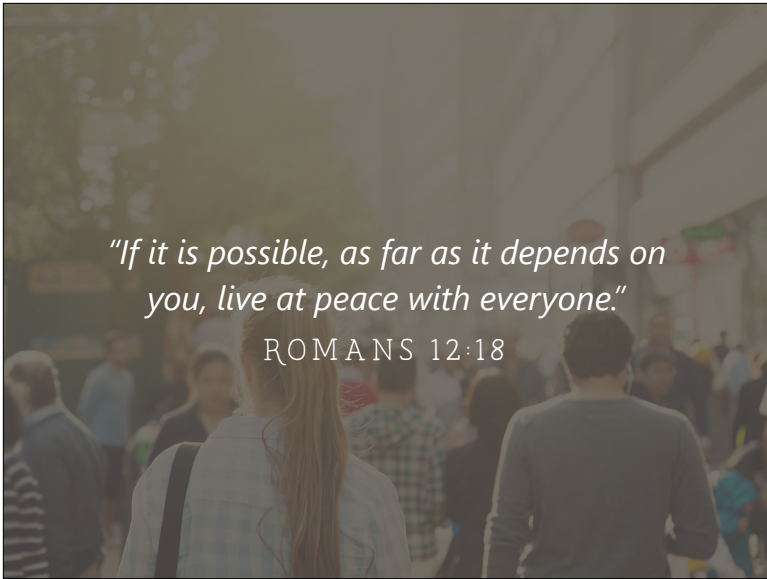
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*"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."*

ROMANS 12:18

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UNDERSTANDING THE SPONGE

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Understand that the *Sponge* operates out of unresolved sin.

*The Sponge is not just a personality type, it is a sin issue.*

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UNDERSTANDING THE SPONGE

2

Understand that the *Sponge* operates out of unresolved fulfillment.

*When we use another to meet our need for wholeness, our entire relational journey with that person will be a failed attempt to become whole.*

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*A Sponge doesn't need  
my sympathy*

- my emotions, manipulated into  
meeting their needs.

*A Sponge needs my empathy*

- my emotions and my intelligence.

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## EMPATHY/SYMPATHY



Empathy feels with the heart and  
understands with the head.

Sympathy feels only with the heart.

Empathy addresses problems.

Sympathy alleviates symptoms.

Empathy allows us to help without hurting.

Sympathy alone makes us rescuers.

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## HELPING WITHOUT HURTING

**Employ some empathy.**

A Sponge needs both my heart  
AND my head.

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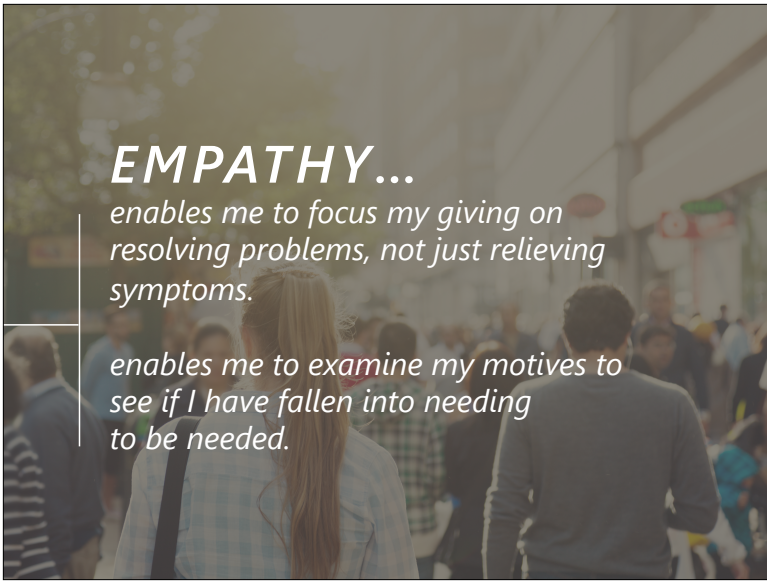
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## **EMPATHY...**

*enables me to focus my giving on resolving problems, not just relieving symptoms.*

*enables me to examine my motives to see if I have fallen into needing to be needed.*

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## **HELPING WITHOUT HURTING**

**Establish some boundaries.**

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***"It's only a nose, what could it hurt?"***

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## BOUNDARIES

*When the pain of staying the same exceeds the pain of change, the Sponge will thank you for it.*

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## AM I A SPONGE?

*Ask your loved ones—and listen.*

*Ask God to help—then practice giving proactively and unconditionally.*

*Start reciprocating—when someone gives, give back—ASAP!*

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*"It is more blessed to GIVE than to receive."*

~JESUS CHRIST~

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# EXTRA

GRACE REQUIRED



PART 5 The Sponge

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