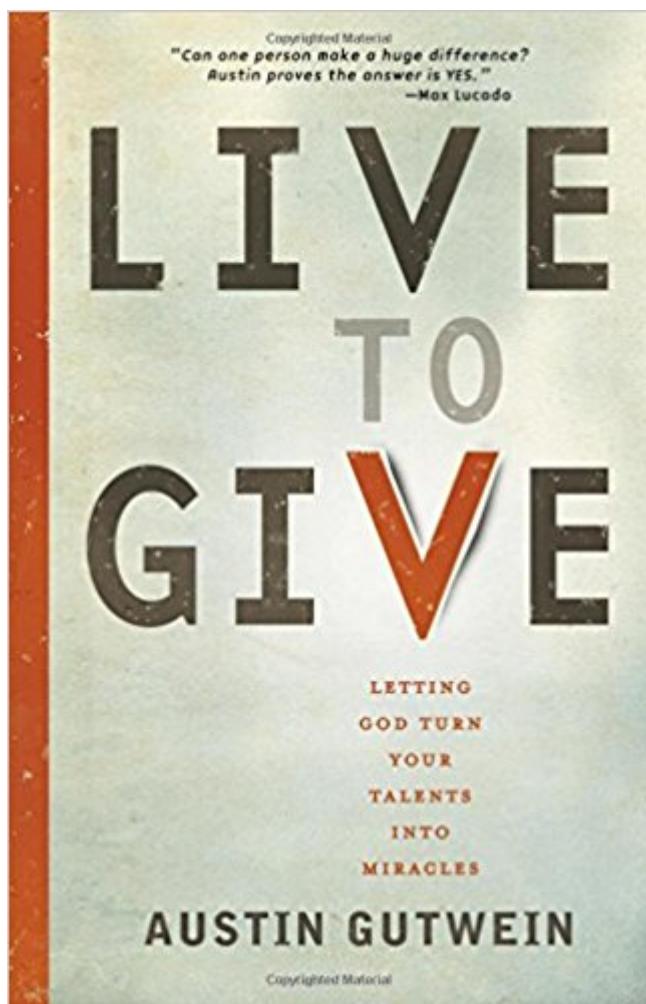


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# Live To Give: Let God Turn Your Talents Into Miracles



## **Synopsis**

Want to do something for God but don't know what? Want to help others but don't know who? Want to know what it is you're really good at doing? Your gifts may feel small and insignificant. But God can use them to work a miracle! Inspired by the biblical story of the feeding of the 5,000, Live to Give delivers a message of hope that we all have something to give. Written in the down-to-earth, candid voice of the gifted young man who as a kid founded a relief ministry that has saved and improved countless lives in Africa, Live to Give is the message that every teen needs to hear: You are more special than you know, and you can do big things. Jesus proved that no gift is too small when He used five loaves and two fish to feed a crowd of thousands. And if no gift is too small, too ordinary, or too random, there is no limit to what the youth of today can accomplish! A teenage philanthropist who has built a high school, two medical clinics, five dormitories, two computer labs, and countless wells in Africa-all before the age of 16-Austin Gutwein shares how to take what may seem like the simplest of talents, gifts, and interests and use them for something Jesus can use to move mountains.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

œCan one person make a huge difference? Austin proves the answer is YES. • œ Max Lucado  
--This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

When you read the story of the feeding of the 5000, the Bible talks about how the crowd became "restless" and began to "stand". Have you ever wondered how many of them grew tired; maybe

they were too hungry and went home? I've often wondered if this story couldn't have been the feeding of the 10,000 or even the 100,000. Â When you're tired, hungry and simply worn out, will you stick with whatever God has called you to? Â The road may be long, it may be dusty, there may be people on it that make fun of you, bully you, and want to steal what you have. Â But Jesus promises never to leave us or forsake us. Each of us have a special gift; a special lunch that God is ready to use to change the world. There's a miracle ready to happen. Â - Austin

Typically I don't like to read, but when I started this book I couldn't put it down! Austin's book, Live to Give, is truly an inspiring book for all ages. He uses real life examples as well as Biblical facts to take the reader on a journey through self-reflection and self-discovery. Live to Give isn't just the title, it's a way of life. Austin not only talked about his talents, but painted a picture on how everyone has been given their own talents; all unique, but none less important than the other. I can't wait to share this book with others, and I would recommend this book to all! Thanks Austin, and God Bless!

Inspiring to young and old!!!! A perfect graduation gift for any age!!!

Making a difference in the world is something I am passionate about, and it is clear that Austin Gutwein feels the same way! Austin has brought us a book that I heartily enjoyed and can recommend: "Live to Give: Letting God Turn Your Talents Into Miracles." This is a book for everyone! Austin has a very practical, realistic, and Scriptural view of how God has blessed each one of us with unique talents and abilities, and how He desires that we would use them to impact the world. With an in-depth look at the boy who let Jesus turn his lunch into a meal for 5,000 people, we are encouraged to do the same with our own gifts. Austin definitely has the gift of exhortation and the ability to inspire confidence in others. The stories of what he has done with his 18 years of life are so inspirational! He knows what he is talking about and he is living it out. That's the best kind of message-bearer one can be! I thought he did a great job speaking realistically on the challenges we can face when we choose to give of ourselves, and presented practical ways to overcome these obstacles. Giving of your time, talents, and abilities is an amazing thing. As Austin points out, not only do we change the world but we change \*ourselves\*. We grow by using our gifts. I know this has been true over and over again in my life, and I hope that many others will step out and start to see this at work in their lives, too! As someone who works in youth and children's ministries, I found the words that Austin directed to parents, teachers, and adults to be right on target. We do need to be encouraging the younger generation and empowering them to be able to live confidently in the

unique abilities God has given them. May we show them how glorious it is to live to give, and may we put resources like this book in their hands to help them decide to go in faith and see it happen. Thank you to LitFuse for my copy of the book. All opinions in this review are my own.

What does it mean to live to give? It starts with knowing the reason God put you on this earth. God has something for you to do. He has given you a gift and when you use it, it keeps in giving. Austin knows that God could do it all Himself. Yet, for some reason, God chooses people to solve the world's problems. Austin has written this book to help young people understand what they have been living for and what they were made to be living for. He uses the example of the boy in John 6 with the lunch to show that each person is unique. He helps his readers find out what their spiritual gifts are. He continues to use the idea of the lunch to teach several spiritual lessons. He has the knack of telling a very interesting story then associating a truth lesson with it. For example, oven baked, Chicago style pizza can take forty-five minutes to bake. But, "Like many good things, it's worth the wait." (124) He goes on to write about waiting for God to produce results in your giving. Like planting a garden, results might not come for months. Austin declares, "Nothing beats living this way! Nothing we could eat, drink, buy, play, watch, or win in life can compare to the feeling of giving ourselves away..." (11) His final encouragement is to start where you are. "Be willing to let Him use you and your lunch." (190) This is a great book for teens. Austin gives many examples of young people who are giving their lives away. He relates stories of Bible characters. And he adds just the right amount of humor. There are discussion questions at the end of each chapter so this would be a perfect book for a group study. I received a complimentary copy of this book from the LitFuse Publicity Group for the purpose of this review.

Recently I've been meeting with a young man, and we've been talking about how God uses us, our gifts, and even our finances to help others for His glory. I gave him a copy of the book *The God Pocket* by Bruce Wilkinson that has an extremely practical way that we can purposefully live this out. And then I received a copy of Austin Gutwein's *Live to Give*. Wow! Gutwein is the exact same age as the young man I've been meeting with, 18, and the author has wisdom far beyond his years. It's amazing that God chose this young man when he was only nine to change the lives of thousands in Africa through a ministry he formed called Hoops for Hope. And he's been building clinics, schools, and feeding the hungry there ever since. *Live to Give* is all about how God uses what we have to help others. One of the biggest things I took away from the book was Gutwein's illustration of the young boy who brought the loaves and fishes that Jesus used to feed the five

thousand. The disciples went all through the crowd to see what food was available, and this was the only person who remembered to bring his lunch, and he gave it up to Jesus. Likewise we might be the only person in the crowd who has what God wants to use to help the multitude. Are we willing to give it up to Him? I'd highly recommend this book. I received a copy of this book free from the publisher for review. This review was originally published on Manifest Blog.

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