

### What does Judaism think about *tzedakah*/charity?

“In Judaism, giving to the poor is not viewed as a generous, magnanimous act; it is simply an act of justice and righteousness, the performance of a duty, giving the poor their due. If a person is truly in need and has no way to obtain money on his own he should not feel embarrassed to accept tzedakah.”

([www.jewfaq.com](http://www.jewfaq.com))

Maimonides (Rambam), the great Torah scholar and physician of the 12th century, described these 8 levels of giving to others:

1. Giving begrudgingly
2. Giving less than you should, but giving it cheerfully.
3. Giving after being asked
4. Giving before being asked
5. Giving when you do not know the recipient's identity, but the recipient knows your identity
6. Giving when you know the recipient's identity, but the recipient doesn't know your identity
7. Giving when neither party knows the other's identity
8. Enabling the recipient to become self-reliant

