

The Basics of Giving

I. Introduction

A. God, by His essential nature, is a giver!

1. **John 3:16:** "God loved the world so much that he gave..."
2. He does not give because we need; He gives because He needs to give.
3. The reason for God's giving is His love.
4. When He gives, He is displaying Himself – His nature.
5. Because He gives, everyone who was experiencing the curse of death can now experience the joy of life.

B. God answers prayer in many ways. The Bible always teaches, demonstrates, and promises that prayer is getting answers from God.

II. Giving Makes Good Sense

A. God gave Himself. When we receive God's donation of Himself, we share His divine nature.

Acts 17:28 'By his power we live and move and exist.' Some of your own poets have said: 'For we are his children.'

2 Peter 1:4 Through these he gave us the very great and precious promises. With these gifts you can share in God's nature, and the world will not ruin you with its evil desires.

Ephesians 2:10 God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.

Colossians 1:22 But now God has made you his friends again. He did this through Christ's death in the body so that he might bring you into God's presence as people who are holy, with no wrong, and with nothing of which God can judge you guilty.

B. When we give to God, He gives back to us.

C. We must give ourselves completely to God.

D. In Old Testament times, it was impossible to worship God without bringing an offering.

E. God did not plan for the system of sacrifices to be too costly for the worshiper.

F. "... offer your lives as a living sacrifice...." (Romans 12:1-2)

G. The Holy Spirit led Paul to teach us that offering our lives as a sacrifice was "the spiritual way for you to worship."

III. Giving Is Required

A. All the Old Testament Israelites were required to bring an offering to the Lord.

B. The firstborn animals were supposed to be offered to the Lord. But if there were more than enough firstborn animals, you could buy back the animal for 2 ounces of silver. (Numbers 3:47-51).

C. God also required an offering when Israel took a census (Exodus 30:12-16).

D. These two offerings were not requests; they were requirements.

- E. The Tabernacle in the wilderness was built with materials given by the people (Exodus 35:4-5).
- F. This kind of freewill offering is an expression to God of our joy in His giving and in His Person.

IV. Giving Is an Answer to God's Goodness

- A. Jesus taught us about giving.
- B. Paul told the believers in Corinth to regularly schedule their giving. He told them the amount of their offering should be according to how much God has blessed them. And he told them that their offering was supposed to be based on their commitment of love for God, not on any emotional request he might make after he arrived.

1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should put aside money as you have been blessed. Save it up so you will not have to collect money after I come.

- D. God loves us to give happily.

2 Corinthians 9:7 Each one should give as you have decided in your heart to give. You should not be sad when you give, and you should not give because you feel forced to give. God loves the person who gives happily.

1. We've trusted Him to save our souls. We can also trust Him to handle our money.
2. Our life and everything we have is a gift from God. When we realize that, we will have true joy.

- E. It may sound like just a saying, but it is amazingly true. "You can't out give God."

- F. God already owns everything. Why does He need our money?

1. He doesn't need any of our giving, but we desperately need to give.
2. We cannot always receive; we must also give.
3. When we give it helps us realize how much God has given to us, and how much we owe Him.
4. God is our creator. He knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows that when someone gives something to us, we feel the need to give something in return.

- G. Three verses need to be memorized and put into practice:

1. **Deuteronomy 8:18** but remember the Lord your God! It is he who gives you the power to become rich, keeping the agreement he promised to your ancestors, as it is today.
2. **Luke 16:2** So he called the manager in and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give me a report of what you have done with my money, because you can't be my manager any longer.'
3. **2 Corinthians 9:7** Each one should give as you have decided in your heart to give. You should not be sad when you give, and you should not give because you feel forced to give. God loves the person who gives happily.
4. These verses should become the foundation for your giving.