

4 Facts About Giving

1. Giving goes beyond your tithes.

The tithing principle doesn't only apply to the person who receives a regular paycheck. It also applies to the person who does not have regular monetary income, but instead has material income which comes from herding, farming, growing, etc. Tithing is basically proportionate giving.

Giving goes beyond the tenth. Malachi 3:8 notes that we are not to rob God of tithes and offerings. It is all a matter of achieving a proper balance. God does not expect you to give what you don't have.

In giving to God, we only return a portion of whatever He has already given to us. The true spirit of giving brings on an automatic boomerang-like effect. Sowing, reaping, tithing and giving all overlap in some areas. Luke 6:38 tells us, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (KJV).

Look at what this Scripture is really saying. It does, in fact, say that when we give, we will receive. This ties in closely with another verse found in Galatians 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (KJV). Giving is a seed and, if we sow it properly, God will see to it that we reap a harvest. According to Malachi 3:10, if we give properly of our tithes and offerings, God will open up the windows of heaven and pour out blessings that will be so great that we won't have room to receive them.

2. Giving expresses our love.

How much money should a Christian give to the Lord? Nowhere in the New Testament is this question answered. God is not so much interested in how much we give, whether it be the minimum of 10 percent, 15 percent, 20 percent or even 50 percent of our income. He is interested in how and why we give. II Corinthians 9:6-9 notes that the one who sows sparingly shall reap the same. "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man

should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (NIV).

II Corinthians 9:7 tells us how we should give. “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (NIV). We must be completely honest with ourselves. Do we honestly get a lot more enjoyment out of giving than we do out of receiving? Too many people put more emphasis on receiving than they do on giving.

God’s Word plainly teaches that all giving should be based upon love.

I Corinthians 13:3 tells us this truth: “If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing” (NIV). Some people learn part of God’s laws of prosperity and give in a calculating manner, anticipating something in return. This just isn’t going to work. Giving without love is of no value whatsoever. No matter what we give, if our gift isn’t based upon love, it is worth nothing. Love is the key to giving and only love opens the channels for our loving Father to give back to us.

3. Giving should be done with generosity!

David wrote in Psalm 112:5,9, “Good will come to him who is generous... He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be lifted high in honor” (NIV). The true spirit and attitude of giving (helping the needy) is at the heart of Jesus’ instruction in the Sermon on the Mount. In Luke 6:35 we are told not to expect a lot in return for our kindness: “... without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great...” (NIV).

So should we then give just in order to get? Absolutely not! A giving person gives out of a spirit of genuine generosity. When he or she receives, it is a totally unexpected blessing. Seeking to get is disastrous to the spirit of giving! Remember it was Jesus Christ, Son of Man, Son of God, who said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35 KJV).

Our giving must be bountiful and with the knowledge that our kindness and generosity will ultimately be of much help to those in need. It is not the amount of our gift, but it is our motive. We are not to give grudgingly or out of necessity or sorrow. Don't give large gifts if you don't feel obliged to do so. Don't give sorrowfully because you are giving out of regard for public opinion. Give out of a sense of need and a pure motive. This is the kind of giving God delights in; giving cheerfully, with laughter, delight, exuberance and joyfulness. When we manage to grasp these principles, giving really does become a blessing!

4. Giving keeps our hearts humble.

Why is it more blessed to give than to receive? When we give freely and generously, we put God first, obeying His Word ahead of our own selfish interests. This obedience will cause Him to bless us. When we give freely and generously, we demonstrate our trust in God. The degree of our giving is a clear indication of our freedom from fear. Freedom from fear is always a blessing.

Freely giving protects us from the pitfalls of greed and materialism.

Freely giving protects us from the pitfalls of greed and materialism. Generous giving comes from a humble and loving heart. Greed and selfishness are derived from a prideful "me first" attitude which serves to put barriers between us and the blessings of God. I Peter 5:5 says that, "God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." (KJV) What an important verse!