

Blessed by Giving!



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Everyone wants to be blessed—and many admit—*God has blessed me so many times and in so many ways, it would be difficult to list them all.*

Many have given donations to someone in need or have helped a friend with a task they had—but we can also give our *time* and our *attention* to a child or to someone in our circle of friends.

A crowd had gathered to hear Jesus speak and to be healed of their afflictions. He then gave the people and His disciples the beatitudes. He said Luke 6:38 *“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom [will be poured into your lap]. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”* That is how to be *blessed* by first *giving!*

Everyone needs encouragement as they travel the Christian path of faith in God each day. And Jesus is saying to *give*—not just material goods or finances but also to give *encouragement*, *support*, and *assurance* to someone going through a tough time. Deuteronomy 3:28 *“Charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him: for he shall go over before this people, and he*

shall cause them to inherit the land which thou shalt see.”

The people encouraged Joshua to be the leader that God had appointed him to be. It was following—1 Thessalonians 5:11 *“Therefore encourage [comfort] one another and let each one help to strengthen [edify] his friend, as in fact you do.”* Edify means to inform and build up as we grow in spiritual wisdom—pass that knowledge on to others—encourage them by referring to Scripture.

It was said: *Do all the **good** you can; in all the **ways** you can; to all the **souls** you can; in every **place** you can; at all the **times** you can; with all the **zeal** you can; as long as **ever** you can* unquote.

By God’s grace, strength, and inspiration, we should want to *do that* as we walk this Christian path of faith, trust, and dependence on God. It is He who *enables* us to do it.

The best thing we can do for others is offer *prayers* for them—asking God to bless them; to encourage them in the faith; and inspire them to hold steadfast in trusting Him. Numbers 6:24 *“The LORD bless thee and keep thee: 25 The LORD make his face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.”* Everyone wants that to be a *reality* in their life.

God will *bless* us for being more *giving* toward others—like being more *willing* to help and to *keep* them in our prayers. We can be *gracious* to people—which means to be kind, polite, courteous, civil, and sociable. We should always follow Romans 12:18 *“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”*

Being cheerful and joyful in the Lord radiates to everyone around us. Proverbs 15:13 *“A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.”* The look on our face can encourage a discouraged person. When we think of what God has done for us,

the least we can do for another is encourage them. Psalm 145:8 *“The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.”*

Jesus said Matthew 5:7 *“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.”* Everyone needs God’s mercy—that is why Jesus told us to Luke 6:36 *“Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.”* We do not always follow that advice. A humble spirit would seek God’s mercy, as the publican did Luke 18:13 *“God be merciful to me a sinner.”*

Psalm 136:1 *“O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.”* That psalm quotes *“His mercy endureth for ever,”* 26 times. We should be more merciful toward others by offering more prayers for them; encouraging; and helping them in any way that God enables us to help.

Angry words seem to be everywhere today, but the Bible gives this advice: Proverbs 15:1 *“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”* If anyone is angry *at* us, or angry with someone *near* us, a soft word immediately lessens the tension and diffuses or turns away wrath.

It is definitely more blessed to *give* than to *receive*—but giving can encompass many things—giving of our *time*; our *energy*; our *resources*; giving *assistance* with some task; giving *encouragement*; and just giving a *smile* to a discouraged soul. If anyone says: *Just pray for me*, we should always be willing to *do* that and adding that we will *keep* them in our prayers.

The apostle wrote Acts 20:35 *“In all things I have set you an example, showing you that, by working as I do, you ought to help the weak, and to bear in mind the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”* When we *give* to someone, there is more going on than we realize—we are actually following the Savior.

In a *selfish* world, we are called to *selflessness*. It is *one* or the *other* in our dealing with others—*selfish* or *selfless*. The world's attitude is: *Don't touch my stuff*; the believer's attitude is, *Feel free to use my stuff*—God has blessed me with it; I know it is only on loan, so if you need it or can use it, please do—God has more blessings for me.

Christians are supposed to be *givers*—and the greatest gift ever given is John 3:16 “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*”

We know that stealing is wrong and would not think of doing so—the Bible clearly says Exodus 20:15 “*Thou shalt not steal.*” Nevertheless, there are other ways of stealing—*time* from our boss or *time* away from our children.

We should always be *looking* for ways to *give*—like giving our time, assistance, finances, or encouragement. Giving is a *heart* issue—it has nothing to do with how *much* money we have or do *not* have. We *want* to give if we want to *follow* the Lord. We should be in a *giving mode*—always!

God makes this offer Malachi 3:10 “*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try [prove] Me now in this, Says the LORD of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.*”

The influence of *self* we began life with wants to keep everything for *itself*—but when the Spirit of God is within, we want to *give* anything to anyone as God opens the way for us to do that. Believers are *givers* because it is *more blessed to give than to receive* Acts 20:35. Everyone wants to be *blessed*, but we have to be *willing* to give first!

We have to be careful when giving as Satan is always trying to put some pride in our heart for

having done some good thing—*telling* others of our giving or *boasting* of how we helped the poor, etc.—the list could be *long* and the pride *deep* in our heart.

Luke 18:10 “*Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.*

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’

13 “And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ 14 ‘I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Even if we have zero dollars, we can still give—we can give our *time*; our *tithes*; and our *talents* to help someone. There are many ways to *give* to people, we just have to be willing to ask *God* to show us *how* we can help; *where* someone needs help; or *who* we can bless with our time, energy, and prayers.

We should not be concerned if we have *little* or *much* to share, the issue is whether we are *willing* to share whatever it is—large or small. The Christian lyrics say: *Little is much when God is in it—labor not for wealth or fame; there's a crown and you can win it, when you go in Jesus' Name.* It is not the *amount* of something, but the attitude of the heart toward *God* that matters.

Jesus knew the importance of giving His *life* for the sins of mankind—and He carefully instructed His followers John 15:12 “*This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.*”

Some say they would lay down their *life* for Jesus but are often not willing to give what is in their *pocket* for Jesus. Many will not give their *time* to the Lord yet say they will *die* for the Lord. It just does not work that way.

Christians are *not* hoarders but givers. 1 Timothy 6:7 “*For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*” We should *look* for ways to give and *seek* some way to help another. We take nothing with us—we may as well send it on ahead by giving it away on earth.

Jacob had a giving spirit and said to his brother Esau Genesis 33:11 “*Please, take my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. So he urged him, and he took it.*”

The instructions are *clear*, and the reward is *great*—Luke 6:35 “*Love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest.*” There is a *reward-day* for believers—what we *did* with what we *had* reveals our heart—the *attitude* within.

God wants to *shower* us with rewards for the life we lived on earth for Him. 1 Corinthians 10:31 “*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*”

If the same *God* Who has given us His *Son* has something *else* to give us, we should definitely *want* it—it *has* to be amazing!

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