



FIRST THINGS – PART 3

November 12th, 2017

The Heart of Giving

Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back. - Luke 6:38 NLT

The Spirit of Giving

1. The Principle: You Always Receive **MORE THAN YOU GIVE.**

You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate. ³⁷ “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. - Luke 6:36-37 NLT

2. The Motive: Catch the Vision of **GIVING, NOT GETTING.**

*People may be pure in their own eyes, but the LORD examines their motives.
- Proverbs 16:2 NLT*

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. - James 4:3 NIV

3. The Big Picture: **RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING,** Not Material Gain.

³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. - Luke 6:30-35 NIV

Developing a Giving Heart

(Four Kinds of Hearts)

Deuteronomy 15:7-15

1. The **SELFISH** Heart

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. - Joshua 1:8 ESV

2. The **RESENTING** Heart

Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. - Deuteronomy 15:10 NIV

3. The **GENEROUS** Heart

Supply them liberally from your flock, your threshing floor and your winepress. Give to them as the Lord your God has blessed you. - Deuteronomy 15:14 NIV

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind... - Romans 12:2 NKJV

4. The **GRATEFUL** Heart

Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you. That is why I give you this command today. - Deuteronomy 15:15 NIV

...because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to... - Deuteronomy 15:10 NIV

My Next Step This Week...

- Memorize *Luke 6:38*.
- Start tithing to Crosswind Church from my income.
- Get out of debt so I can be generous on all occasions.
- Give my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, for the first time.

Walk the Talk

A Small Group Discussion Guide

1. When you were growing up, who taught you the importance of giving?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 aloud to the group.
 - a. How do the previous chapter and verses set up this final thought that Paul is sharing with the Corinthians (see 8:1-9:5)?
 - b. What principle about agriculture is like the principle about investments that Paul is seeking to establish?
 - c. How far, materially, should we apply the promise about generosity in verses 8-11? How else can we apply it?
 - d. How is giving contagious (see verse 12)? Have you found this to be true in your own life?
 - e. In the larger section, what other power principles about generosity are taught?
3. Pick one point in the outline above and tell how it helped you or challenged you spiritually this week.
4. Have a time of prayer for each other to embrace the firstfruits principle in your group.