

## Giving Up, In, & Over - Luke 6:37-38

I'd like to spend some time talking about one of the most significant WORDS in the Christian Life - - - GIVING

The word "GIVING" - is ALWAYS at the CENTER of True Peace & Joy in the Christian Life

If you'll GRASP How BIG - How ALL-ENCOMPASSING I'm going to be USING the Word "GIVING" today

You will begin to SEE the path to the True Abundant Life that Jesus came to give you

In John 10:10 - Jesus said (esv)

*10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

In the NLT - John 10:10 says (nlt)

*10 . . . My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*

my true prayer for EACH of us is - That we would;

#1) Understand more of what Jesus MEANS by offering us a Rich & Satisfying (Abundant) Life

#2) - that we would move toward the life Jesus died to give us

But what if I told you that RICH & Satisfying (Abundant) life Jesus came to give you - wasn't about you GETTING, & HAVING, & FOCUSING on all your own DESIRES

WHAT IF - the Radically Abundant Life Jesus came to give you - can be Best Defined - Over & Over - by the word - GIVING

As in - **GIVING UP** - **GIVING IN** - & **GIVING OVER** (*just to name a few*)

**Understanding** the **ALL-ENCOMPASSING** concept of “**Giving**”  
in the **Christian life** - is like finding **Buried Treasure**

& for **ALL** who will **embrace it** - **Learning to GIVE** -  
in **every area** of your life - will **radically transform** your **world**

Now - **How many think** I’m talking **ONLY** about your **MONEY** ??

Well, I’m **NOT** - but **if you’re NERVOUS** about it - it **MIGHT be**  
an **indicator** of **how much** you **LOVE** your **money** - Right?

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**Some years ago** - I read a book by **Jack Hayford** - that I highly  
recommend - Called **THE KEY TO EVERYTHING**

But **here’s the question** the book asks us to **consider**

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| <p><b>Is it possible that the KEY that “Unlocks”<br/>EVERYTHING in the Christian life - involves <u>Giving</u> ?</b></p> |
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Not just **GIVING Financially** - The **Full CONCEPT** of “**GIVING**”  
Like - **Giving UP** - **Giving IN** - & **Giving OVER**

**I believe** - It is **IMPOSSIBLE** to **live** the **Christian Life** - at **ANY level** -  
without **Grasping** the **CRUCIAL CONCEPT** of **GIVING**

& **so today** - I’d like to do an **OVERVIEW** for us  
of **GIVING UP** - **GIVING IN** - & **GIVING OVER**

**Let’s Pray**

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**Again** - this message is **INSPIRED** by the book  
**THE KEY TO EVERYTHING** - by **Jack Hayford**

& if **you'd like** us to **order** it for you - & have it **delivered** to your door  
just come **see us** at the **connection center**

**Everything** in our **Relationship with God**  
**BEGAN** with **GIVING** – didn't it ?

**Everything** we **HAVE** from **God**  
**Everything** we **ARE** in **Christ** . . . *for now & for eternity*  
**ALL CAME** from God **GIVING**

It **started** with **THE GREATEST GIVING** of all time

**John 3:16 (esv)**

*16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that  
whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

That Phrase - **For God SO LOVED** - has been interpreted as **BOTH**

**God SO Loved** - **to this Extent** - **THAT HE GAVE His Only Son**  
& **God SO Loved** - **in this Way** - **THAT HE GAVE His Only Son**

**Without** God **GIVING** Immeasurably of **Himself** -  
We would be **HOPELESS**, **HELPLESS**, & **LOST** for Eternity

**And** God **GAVE** - not only for our **ETERNITY**  
but **also** for **all we need** in **THIS LIFE**

**Rom 8:32 - (nlt)**

*32 Since [God] did not spare even his own Son but gave him up  
for us all, won't he also give us everything else?*

Our **Entire Relationship** with God -  
is **based 100%** on God **FREELY GIVING** to us

**the question** we have to ask is - **How then should we respond ?**

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**Thru-out** the N.T. the **ANSWER** is – we **are Called to respond** . . .  
by **GIVING** – in the **same way** – God has **given** to us !

**Once** we begin to **understand how MUCH** God has **Given** us  
& **how GREAT** His **Giving** to us - **IS**

**How can** we just continue **ASKING for more** - **DEMANDING** More -  
Being **concerned ONLY** about our **SELF** - Our **DESIRES**

**GRASPING** The concept of **GIVING** in the **Christian life** - is the  
**evidence** - we understand **HOW MUCH** God has **Given us**

& our **Only RIGHT RESPONSE** is to **BE** Giving -  
**Because** of how much God has **GIVEN US**

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**The Truth** is - **ALL TRANSFORMATION** in the Christian Life  
is somehow **connected** - to **SOME FORM** of **“GIVING”**

In - *The Key To Everything* - I **think** he addresses **SEVEN Areas**  
**of GIVING** that **LEAD** to the **ABUNDANT Christian Life**

**Today** - I just want to **SURVEY THREE Critical areas** of **GIVING**  
**That LEAD** to the **Abundant Christian Life**

**#1 - we must GIVE UP (Surrender to God)**

**#2 - we must GIVE IN (Obey Jesus as Lord)**

**#3 - we must GIVE OVER (Release Control to God)**

**GIVING UP - GIVING IN - GIVING OVER**

Three **CRUCIAL** "**GIVING**" Areas of the **Christian Life**

& **IF** we are **Refusing to GIVE** - in **ANY** of these Areas

It **can easily bring** our **Christian Life** - to a **STAND-STILL**

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**#1 - we must "GIVE UP" (Surrender to God)**

**This** is about **GIVING UP** our **Pride**

& **GIVING UP** our **SELF-Focus**, & our **SELF-Interest**

I've **always thought** - the **greatest LESSON**

on **Giving Up** our **PRIDE** and **SELF-Interest**

is **understanding** exactly what got **Lucifer thrown out** of **heaven**

**Isaiah 14:12-15 (descrip of fall of Lucifer) - (esv)**

***12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn!  
(NKJ puts 'Lucifer' here) How you are cut down to the ground,  
you who laid the nations low!***

***13 You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the  
stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount  
of assembly in the far reaches of the north;***

***14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make  
myself like the Most High.'***

***15 But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the  
pit.***

**If we Really Want to BEGIN to LIVE the Christian Life**  
The **first lesson** of **GIVING** . . .

is **GIVING UP** the "**I WILL'S**" of our life

The "**I Will's**" **ALL** come from **PRIDE**  
& **Pride** is the **BLACKEST SIN** of the **Heart**

**Pride** is **Exalting Your-SELF Over God**

**Meaning YOU** call the shots – **YOU** make the **decisions**  
**YOU ARE** the **Top Dog** in your life

**Pride** is the **ROOT** of **ALL** sin -  
& Most Often - it is **HIDDEN** from our **OWN EYES**

Because **PRIDE** - **BLINDS**

It's the **HARDEST** Sin to **SEE** in ourselves  
& the **HARDEST** of all Sins to **CRUCIFY** in our lives

But we have to **GIVE it up** - We've **GOT to Surrender** it to God  
We've **GOT** to allow God to **CRUSH** it in our lives at **ALL** costs

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**Consider** the **Pharisees** - who had **ALL** the **RIGHT Actions**  
But **ALL** the **Wrong HEART**

Jesus **DIDN'T WANT** their Right Actions **ALONE**

Jesus **wanted** their **HEARTS**  
& He **Aggressively Addressed** their **PRIDE**

## **Matthew 23:27-28 - NLT**

***27 “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside [all the right actions] but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity.***

***28 Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.***

**The PRIDE of “I WILL” Got Lucifer Thrown out of heaven  
PRIDE - Kept the Pharisee’s LOST in their Religious Efforts  
& PRIDE will do the same thing to US**

The **Christian life BEGINS** -  
with **GIVING UP** our **PRIDE** - & Our **SELF-FOCUS**

**We just did** a Msg in James - “**What To Do With Pride**” (#20)  
& Really - we should **ALL Watch/Listen** to that msg **again**

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To Begin to **LIVE** the **Christian Life** - we have **GOT** to  
**GIVE UP OUR PRIDE** - & **Surrender to God**

**#2 - we must “GIVE IN” (Obey Jesus as Lord)**

We must **GIVE IN** to Jesus as our **LORD**

We **can’t** follow Our **SELF** & **JESUS** - at the **Same time**

The **THRONE** of our **LIFE** - is a **ONE SEAT Throne**  
& **JESUS CAN’T** get **ON** it - until **WE** Get **OFF** it

We Must **GIVE IN** - to the **Lordship of Jesus** in our lives

**To be a Disciple** is **TO BE** - **One who follows Jesus**

Which **means** simply - **OBEYING the Lord** - instead of yourself

**BUT** - We've **got** to **ALWAYS Remember** -

Jesus **wants** our **HEART** - in all **circumstances** & at all **times**

**Obedience** means **FAR MORE** than just **Routine Duty**

**1 Samuel 15:22-23 - (nlt)**

***22 But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.***

***23 Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. . .***

***God is talking about Obedience of the heart here***

The **secret** - to **obedience** that brings **TRUE BLESSING** into our lives is **Obedience of the heart**

***To Obey*** (from the heart) ***is better – than sacrifice***  
(meaning **going thru** the **motions**)

& **King David REPEATS** this great truth - When He's **repenting**  
& **seeking** to be **restored** to the Lord - in **PSA 51**

**KNOW Psalm 51** - **KNOW** it - **UNDERSTAND** it

**God wants obedience from the heart**

& **GIVING IN** to that **Obedience** -  
**Puts** you **ON** the **PATH** of the **True Abundant Life**

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**True freedom** comes when we **STOP** being **slaves to Sin**  
& **START** being **slaves to God**

& you **might** be **thinking** - *oh, great - there goes all my fun  
with Sin & Serving my Flesh & Living for the World*

**NO** - there **GOES** the **PAIN**, & **MISERY**, & **DEATH**  
that **comes** from your **slavery to Sin**

& **HERE COMES** the **Abundant life**  
of **True Joy**, **True Peace**, **True Happiness**

**NOT** those **LIES** that the **Slave-Masters**  
of **SELF** - & the **WORLD** - **FEED YOU**

### **Romans 6:20-22 - (nlt)**

*20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the  
obligation to do right.*

*21 And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the  
things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom.*

*22 But now you are free from the power of sin and have  
become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to  
holiness and result in eternal life.*

**Is there an area** in **your life** that (*maybe*)  
you haven't **GIVEN IN** - to the **Lordship** of **Jesus Christ** ??

**IF** there **is** - then **you** are **CAN NOT** be **experiencing**  
**the abundant life** that **Jesus died** to **give** you

You must **GIVE IN** - to **Obedience** to **Christ** Alone - **As your Lord**

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**So** - **To be growing** in the **Abundant life** Jesus **offers** us → →

## **#1 - we must GIVE UP**

our **PRIDE** & **SELF-FOCUS** (Surrender to God)

## **#2 - we must GIVE IN**

to the **Lordship** of **Jesus Christ** (Obey Jesus as Lord)

## **# 3 - we must GIVE OVER - Release control to God**

**There** are **so many areas** of our lives  
that we **must** be constantly **GIVING OVER to God**

**But today** we **only have time** to touch on **THREE**

**We** must **GIVE OVER** – What we **Can't HANDLE**

**We** must **GIVE OVER** - What we **Can't FIX**

**We** must **GIVE OVER** – What we **Can't KEEP**

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## **#1) We must GIVE OVER – What we Can't Handle**

### **1Peter 5:7 – (nlt)**

*7 **Give** all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.*

God **gave You** His **Son** - & **IN HIM** - **ALL** that you need

& in **return** - He asks you to **GIVE HIM** - All your **cares & worries**

**Jesus** is the **Good Shepherd** –

He's **Given His life** to **care for you**

**IN response** - **HE** asks **US** - to **GIVE OVER** to Him

**ALL** that we **CAN'T HANDLE**

## **Philippians 4:6-7 - (nlt)**

*6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.  
7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

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**& when I say - We must GIVE OVER – What we Can't FIX**

**What I mean** is –we must **FOR-GIVE**

## **Colossians 3:13 – (nlt)**

*13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.*

**We must GIVE OVER – What we Can't FIX**

**How serious** is the Lord about us **GIVING OVER**  
**ANY WRONG** that has **Been Done** to us . . .

## **Matthew 6:14-15 (nlt)**

*14 "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.  
15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

This is **NOT Judicial** (Positional) **forgiveness**  
**this** is **Relational forgiveness**

**meaning your relationship** with God will be **BROKEN**  
**as long** as you **refuse** to **FORGIVE** what **can't be fixed**

We must Truly Forgive  
IN THE SAME WAY as we've BEEN forgiven

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Lastly - We must GIVE OVER – What we can't Keep

This is an "Attitude" toward Life - that effects everything we do

If we will GIVE OVER to God - everything we've been given by God  
Then He will cont to give us more than we need

In Matthew 10:8 – Jesus says to His disciples - (NKJ)  
*8 . . . Freely you have received, freely give.*

The Heavenly Principle – Taught Thru-Out the N.T.  
Is that we are to GIVE – AS we have BEEN GIVEN to by God

& the testimony of every person I've EVER Met - who has learned this  
CONFIRMS Exactly what the Bible says

There is a Direct Correlation between  
HOW we Give – and - HOW we Recieve

This Principle is shown perfectly in Luk CH 6 - (turn there)

There is a Direct Correlation between  
HOW we Give – and - HOW we Recieve

Luke 6:37-38 (Jesus speaking) - (nlt) → →

**Luke 6:37-38** (Jesus) - (nlt)

***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.***

***38 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.”***

**Every area of the Abundant Christian Life has to do with GIVING**

**GIVING UP - GIVING IN - GIVING OVER -  
The Christian life - is a life of GIVING.**

**& Here – Jesus Christ DIRECTLY ties the AMOUNT you GIVE  
to the AMOUNT you RECEIVE**

Now – **IS Jesus talking about JUST Money? - No! - *He’s not!*  
But **IS Jesus talking about Money - YES - *He is!*****

**Jesus is talking about  
Every Area of the Abundant Christian Life**

***What you give - will determine what you receive***

The picture in the GREEK - is of a man  
with a large apron-like garment used for carrying seed

& the more SEED he PUTS OUT - the greater his HARVEST

He will be REWARDED in The Harvest  
in Direct Measure - to HOW he GAVE OUT what he had

He is rewarded in full  
*pressed down, shaken together, and running over*

& He receives it back into the fold of his apron -  
THAT is the Picture being painted here

This is a Heavenly Principle -  
we DO reap according to WHAT we sow

The same measure we use to others  
is used to measure back to us

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|---|
| Your <u>ability</u> to <u>Receive from God</u><br>is <u>directly related</u> to your capacity to <u>Give Away</u> |
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& not only that – but the Bible is very clear . . .

that what we try to hold onto – we will lose,  
and what we give out - we will receive

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in God's Economy - the Key to Everything – is GIVING

GIVING UP - Your Pride & Self Interest

GIVING IN - To Obey Jesus as your LORD

GIVING OVER - Releasing to God - What you CAN'T HANDLE

What you CAN'T FIX - & What you CAN'T KEEP

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& May we ALWAYS Remember  
the true source of ALL Giving - is at THE CROSS

& If we will stay close to THE CROSS  
We will never forget - what was given to us there

& when we learn to give – in every area of our lives  
then we'll begin to understand

that we're just GIVING BACK to God  
ALL that He's GIVEN US

Let's Pray