



Living by GIVING STUDY GUIDE



Week 3: “Good Times”

1. READ

Pastor Watley’s Scripture: II Corinthians 9 : 6 – 8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶ But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ *So let* each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

Further Reading: Philippians 4 : 10 – 20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: ¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

¹⁴ Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. ¹⁵ Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. ¹⁸ Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now to our God and Father *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 51 : 8 – 12 New International Version (NIV)

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
⁹ Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.
¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.





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¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Nehemiah 8 : 10 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁰ And Nehemiah continued, “Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don’t be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!”

2. REFLECT

[Make sure to review this week’s sermon!]



This week our Senior Pastor Rev. Matthew L. Watley continued his sermon series entitled “Living by Giving.” Throughout this series, we are exploring the various biblical principles that teach us how to be good stewards of our resources. Not only are we learning what the bible says about properly managing our financial resources, or our “*treasure*,” but we are also learning how God calls us to steward our *time* and our *talent*. Each week, we are presented with object lessons that introduce these foundational principles in a new and practical way!





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In our lesson for week two entitled “Good Times,” Pastor Watley encourages us to take our spiritual temperature. During the season of COVID-19, we are all increasingly aware of our health and our physical wellbeing. In fact, for months we have been taking various precautions to ensure we do not get sick. These precautions, including wearing masks, social distancing, and getting our temperatures checked when we enter certain buildings, are life-saving practices that are required for us to stay safe. This leads us to ask ourselves a few important questions:

**Have we been equally as concerned about our spiritual health?
In addition to our physical temperature, where is our spiritual temperature right now?**

Similar to the way we have to be intentional about the measures we take to protect ourselves physically, we also have to take measures to encourage optimal spiritual health. For example, the principle of giving is a biblical requirement that helps us to be spiritually healthy. It is important to note that the word “giving” here does not simply refer to money. As Pastor Watley notes, we should “Give what God desires!” In addition to our call to give monetarily, God desires our time and our various talents that help build the Kingdom of God. And yet, many of us do not even realize that we may be living with a mentality that has caused us to limit our giving in these areas.

As we have learned today, there are two categories that we can fall into: the **abundance mentality** or the **scarcity mentality**. When we live with a *scarcity* mentality, we are never satisfied. Even when we have enough, we constantly yearn and hunger for more. This could apply to our money, power, acclaim, etc. As Pastor Watley describes it, when we live with a scarcity mentality, we end up expending energy trying to fill up a glass that has a hole in it. However, when we live with an *abundance* mentality, we often feel a sense of joy and satisfaction. No matter what we need, we can trust that we live under an open heaven. This mentality is a declaration that we believe God will supply all of our needs, according to His riches in glory!

Once we understand this, we begin to realize that the abundance mentality requires us to embrace the concept of giving. As Pastor Watley notes, “giving is the thing that God has created for us to truly experience His best.” In fact, the Bible says it is more blessed to give than to receive. This means that when we give our time, talent, and treasure, we put ourselves in the position to experience the fullness of God’s blessings. When we focus on receiving alone, we actually end up receiving less! That is why in our scripture for this week (2 Corinthians 9:6-8) the Apostle Paul writes, “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” As believers, we serve a God of abundance. However, when focus on limiting what we sow, we can also put a limit on what we reap. Although this applies to various aspects of our lives, when we consider using it with our income, Pastor Watley recommends the **Dime Dime Plan** = 10% Goes to God, 10% Goes to me for Savings, 80% To live on the Rest!





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3. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- Take a moment to assess your “spiritual temperature.” How are you?
- Think of how you give your time, talent, and treasure. Do you give out of the abundance mentality or the scarcity mentality?

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Paul uses the *object lesson* of a harvest to describe giving principles?
- What do you think Paul means by, “*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart*”?

