



“The Blessing of Giving”
Philippians 4:14-20
The Joy of Unity: The Book of Philippians

Introduction:

Our God is a Giving God

- The good news of the gospel is about God giving us His Son.
- The gospel is about His Son, Jesus Christ, being an indescribable gift to the world.
- The gospel is about God giving us the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- The Gospel is also about us giving to others.
- Our God is a giving God and, therefore, we are called to be His giving people!

Review: Philippians 4:10-13

Our Text: Philippians 4:14-20 “Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction. You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

I. THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES OF GIVING

Opportunity #1: The Philippians gave to someone who was afflicted.

- Philippians 4:14 “Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction.”

Opportunity #2: The Philippians gave to someone who was rejected.

- Philippians 4:15 “You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone...”

Opportunity #3: The Philippians gave to someone who had ongoing needs.

- Philippians 4:16 “...for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.”
- Acts 20:35 “In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak...”
- Proverbs 19:17 “One who gives to a poor man lends to the Lord and He will repay him for his deeds.”
- Acts 20:35 “In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

II. THE BENEFITS OF GIVING

- Philippians 4:17 “Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit (i.e., the fruit) which increases to your account.”

Benefit #1: The Spiritual Profit We Receive

- Matthew 6:20-21 “...store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

- 2 Corinthians 9:6 “Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

Benefit #2: The Physical Profit We Receive

- Philippians 4:18 “But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent...”
- Proverbs 3:9-10 “Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.”
- Proverbs 11:24-25 “There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered.”
- Luke 6:38 “Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”

Benefit #3: The Heavenly Blessing God Receives

- Philippians 4:18 “...a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.” Giving is a form of worship.

Benefit #4: The Earthly Reward We Receive

- Philippians 4:19 “And my God will supply (i.e., meet) all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Benefit #5: The Eternal Glory God Receives

- Philippians 4:20 “Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”
We do not give to draw attention to ourselves...

Concluding Challenge:

Giving Principle #1 - The God who created me in His image loves to give (cf. Ps. 84:11; Ps. 37:4; Prov. 2:6; 3:34; 8:20-21; Eccl. 5:19).

Giving Principle #2 - God gives to me so that I will give to others (cf. Prov. 22:2; 29:13; Ps. 112:9; 146:7; Prov. 29:7; 22:9; 31:20; Jas. 2:5; Lk 12:33; 1 Jn 3:17; 1 Tim. 6:17-19; Prov. 3:9-10).

Giving Principle #3 - My giving is to be a form of worship (cf. Prov. 3:10; 14:31; 19:17; Matt. 10:8).

Giving Principle #4 - My giving is to be generous (cf. Prov. 22:9; Jas 1:5; Mk. 12:41-44; 2 Sam. 24:24; 2 Cor. 8:1-5; Lev. 27:30; 1 Tim. 6:17-18).

Giving Principle #5 - My giving is to be gracious (cf. Prov. 14:31; 19:17; Ex. 25:2; 2 Cor. 9:7).

Giving Principle #6 - Giving is to be my first financial priority (cf. Prov. 3:9-10; Ex. 23:19a; 2 Cor. 9:15).

Giving Principle #7 - Faithful giving results in incredible blessings (cf. Prov. 22:9; 14:21; 19:17; Ps. 41:1-3; Prov. 3:9-10; 13:21; 28:27; 11:24-25; Lk. 6:38; 2 Cor. 9:6; Phil. 4:17; Mal. 3:8-12).

Giving Principle #8 - Holding back my giving has serious consequences (cf. Prov. 11:24b; 21:13; 28:27; Eccl. 5:13; Lk. 16:10-11; 2 Cor. 9:6; Matt. 25:14-30).

Giving Principle #9 - The habit of Biblical giving is a learned behavior (cf. 1 Chron. 29; Prov. 22:6).

Pastor Jim's 70-30 Financial Guideline

10% of our combined income is to go to **GIVING** to local churches, para-church ministries, and to the poor.

10% of our combined income is to go to **SAVINGS** with a goal to save at least three months of current living expenses.

10% of our combined income is to go to **DEBT REDUCTION**. (If your debt is substantial, draw from savings, paying off the debt as quickly as possible.)

70% of our combined income is to go to **CURRENT LIVING EXPENSES**. (Anything more and we may be living beyond our means. We must increase our income or lower our expenses.)

We are blessed to be a blessing to others!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:

1. In what specific ways would you testify that God is a giving God?
2. What are your present giving practices?
 - my church
 - para-church ministries
 - the poor and needy
 - mission agencies and missionaries
 - other: _____
3. Why does God call you to give? What are the benefits?
4. How do you expect your giving patterns to change this year?
5. What did you get most out of this message?