

IT'S A SEASON OF GIVING

On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Matthew 2:11 (NIV)

❖ God Loves to GIVE:

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:17 (NIV)

1. God owns everything.

The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.

Psalm 24:1(NLT)

2. God has shared His everything with me.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

Psalm 84:11 (NIV)

3. God has promised to meet my every need.

You can be sure that God will take care of everything you need, his generosity exceeding even yours in the glory that pours from Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 (MSG)

❖ God's EXTRAVAGANT GIFT:

Thank God for his Son—a gift too wonderful for words!

2 Corinthians 9:15 (NLT)

1. God loves me so much... His gifts include His Son.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16 (NIV)

2. God loves me so much... His gifts include His salvation.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

3. God loves me so much... His gifts include His security.

"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."

John 10:28-29 (NIV)

4. God loves me so much... His gifts include me being a part of His sharing.

Through Jesus we received both the generous gift of His life and the urgent task of passing it on to others who receive it by entering into obedient trust in Him.

Romans 1:5 (MSG)

❖ Discovering the JOY of GIVING:

After talking with Herod the wise men went their way. Once again the star appeared to them, guiding them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!

Matthew 2:9-10 (NLT)

1. Give YOURSELF.

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will accept. When you think of what He has done for you, is this too much to ask?

Romans 12:1 (NLT)

2. Give BACK.

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

1 Chronicles 29:14 (NLT)

3. Give PROPORTIONATELY.

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do, says the LORD Almighty, I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you!"

Malachi 3:10 (NLT)

"How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest part of your income, but you ignore the important things of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but you should not leave undone the more important things."

Matthew 23:23 (NLT)

4. Give CHEERFULLY.

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

5. Give PURPOSEFULLY.

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. ¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

2 Corinthians 9:10-13 (NLT)

6. Give EXPECTANTLY.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

7. Give ETERNALLY.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NLT)