

THE BLESSING OF GIVING

JANUARY 24, 2021

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Scripture makes a direct connection between finances and blessing.

B. Your giving affects your blessing.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

II. WE CANNOT TALK ABOUT BLESSING WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT GIVING.

2 Corinthians 8:7 But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

A. *God First*

1.) **Blessing comes from God.**

1 Chronicles 29:12-14 Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. “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.

- *Stewardship is understanding that everything we have has been entrusted to us by God.*

Psalms 37:25-26 I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.

2.) **God will bless you when you bless God.**

Malachi 3:8-10 “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

- *The tithe is the first 10% of what you receive given back to God as an act of worship.*
- *God's Word tells us that God's blessing is given to God's people when they give God's way.*
- *When you look at your finances, are your living and giving in a way that God can bless you or curse you?*

3.) You cannot out give God.

B. People Are the Priority

John 3:16 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.

Genesis 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

C. Healthy Things Grow

1.) Few things say more about your spiritual health than your bank account.

Luke 12:48 From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

2.) The Responsibility Principle

Matthew 25:23 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’

Matthew 25:29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

3.) The Faithfulness Principle

D. We Get to Do This

Acts 20:35 “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

Proverbs 11:25 A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:25 (MSG) The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.