

The New Testament On Giving

by Bill Crews

Said the apostle Paul to the Ephesian elders, "In all things I gave you an example, that so laboring ye ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Giving, if properly done, brings greater happiness to a person and contains more to develop his soul than does receiving. He who gives to another stands a little taller and becomes a little richer (not a little weaker and poorer as the world might insist). Some New Testament points on giving:

1. We are to give as we have opportunity. Gal. 6:10 sets forth the principle; our responsibilities are modified by opportunity.
2. We are to give of what we have, or as we have ability. 2 Cor. 8:12; Acts 3:6; 11:29
3. We are to give cheerfully and willingly, not grudgingly (wishing we didn't have to) and of necessity (because we have to). 2 Cor. 9:7 A readiness is to be there. 2 Cor. 8:12
4. We are to give liberally, generously, bountifully. Rom. 12:8; 2 Cor. 9:6
5. We are to lay by in store on the first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:2); and we are to give to him that has need (Eph. 4:28), to the poor (Gal. 2:10), to the weak (Acts 20:35), to him that asks (Matt. 5:42), but not to those who will not work (2 Thess. 3: 10).
6. When we are able to do but little, God does not overlook that little or even count it as little. Matt. 10:42; Mk. 12:41-44
7. We are not to give oral blessings only, but physical blessings as well, blessings that come of faith. Jas. 2:15-16 Love in deed and truth, not in word and tongue only. 1 Jn. 3:17-18
8. We are not to give merely because others are giving. 2 Cor. 9:7
9. We are not to give because others expect it of us. 2 Cor. 8:8, 12
10. We are not to give to others merely because they gave to us. Lk. 6:33-34
11. We are not to give expecting something in return. Lk. 14:12-14
12. We are not to give to be seen of men or have glory of men. Matt. 6:2-4
13. The deepest giving involves giving self first. 2 Cor. 8:5; Rom. 6:13
14. The noblest giving is done in love; giving without love profits nothing. 1 Cor. 13:3
15. The supreme gift consists in giving one's life for another. Jn. 10:11; 15:13; 1 Jn. 3:16

Remember not only whose we are, but whose is the whole world around us. "Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with a perfect heart they offered willingly to Jehovah: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy" (1 Chron. 29:9). There followed David's prayer of praise unto God in which he said, "For all that is in the heavens and in the earth is thine," and "For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee" (1 Chron. 29:11,14).

Friend, do you feel that way about the things you give unto God? The New Testament says, "For the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof" (1 Cor. 10:26).

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