

Developing a Giving Heart

SERIES: THANKS & GIVING – Part 2

Four Most Mentioned Values in the Bible

o FAITH

o LOVE

o HOPE

o GIVING

*"You already excel in other good qualities - you have faith...knowledge, enthusiasm, and love... (Now) add generosity to your virtues." **2 Corinthians 8:7 (Ph)***

HOW GIVING BENEFITS MY OWN LIFE

1. GIVING MAKES ME MORE LIKE GOD

*"God gives to all generously and ungrudgingly." **James 1:5 (RSV)***

*"Everything we have has come from you Lord, and we can only give you what is yours already!" **1 Chronicles 29:14 (LB)***

2. GIVING DRAWS ME CLOSER TO GOD

*"Your heart will be wherever your treasure is." **Matthew 6:21 (NCV)***

3. GIVING BREAKS THE GRIP OF MATERIALISM

*"You cannot serve both God and money." **Matthew 6:24 (NIV)***

*"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them... to be generous and willing to share. In this way...they may take hold of the life that is truly Life." **1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)***

4. GIVING STRENGTHENS MY FAITH

*"Your giving proves the reality of your faith..." **2 Corinthians 9:13 (Ph)***

*"Give...not with regret, or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more so that there will not only be enough for your own needs but plenty left over to give joyfully to others." **2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (GN/LB)***

5. GIVING IS AN INVESTMENT FOR ETERNITY

*"Tell them to use their money to do good... always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven – it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well." **1 Timothy 6:18-19 (LB)***

*"Give generously, for your gifts will return to you later." **Ecclesiastes 11:1 (LB)***

6. GIVING BLESSES ME IN RETURN

*"Generous people will be blessed..." **Proverbs 22:9 (NCV)***

*"Give generously...and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to." **Deuteronomy 15:10 (NIV)***

Luke 6:38, Proverbs 3:9-10, Proverbs 11:25, Psalm 112:5-6

7. GIVING MAKES ME HAPPY

*(Jesus) "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving." **Acts 20:35 (GN)***

PREPARING FOR OUR THANKSGIVING SERVICE:

"Celebrate the Harvest Festival, to honor the Lord, by bringing him a freewill offering in proportion to the blessing he has given you."

Deuteronomy 16:10 (GN)

*"If you are really eager to give, then it isn't important how much you have to give. God just wants you to give what you have..." **2 Corinthians 8:12 (LB)***

REMEMBERING THE GENEROSITY OF JESUS

(Communion)

*"Do you remember the generosity of Jesus Christ, the Lord of us all? He was rich beyond our telling, yet he became poor for your sake so that his poverty might make you rich." **2 Corinthians 8:9 (Ph)***