

Giving

Why do I want to speak on giving? Because I want you to be blessed. I want everyone to experience life abundant in Christ and one of the keys to this is in giving.

Philippians 4:15-19 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. ¹⁸ Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

What I am not going to say:

1. Not giving will bring a curse to your finances. **Malachi** says it brings a curse.

- **Malachi 3:8-11** "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will not be room enough to receive it*. "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts;

But God is not sitting in Heaven waiting to punish us. In fact, He broke that curse

- **Galatians 3:13** Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"),

2. Giving is a way to get rich - AKA the Prosperity message. Sorry. Wish there was a magic solution to getting rich. There is not.

So why give if there is not a curse and it is not a get rich scheme?

- Because giving and generosity are not about money!! - It is about faith, trust relationship and worship

The Seen and the Unseen (Eternal and Temporal) - Explain the difference

Focus on the eternal realm - It is greater

- **Colossians 3:2** Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.
- **Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Lies vs. what is true vs. the Truth

Let's say someone sins. Let's say they tell a lie. The lie would be to say "I am a liar." What is true is to say that I told a lie. But Truth states that I have been forgiven. I am righteous. In turn, that righteousness makes me want to act in accordance with Truth and simply not lie.

We are not what we do. We are who God says we are!!!

Why does this work? because God set it up this way. We lie because we are ashamed of the truth or we want something to be better than it really was. This is because of insecurity. But once we know who we are in Christ, then we take on His identity and we are no longer insecure. We are confident in Him.

How does this apply to giving? Let's say we have bills to pay and barely enough money to pay them let alone to tithe and especially to be generous above that.

Lie - I cannot afford to give. I am poor

Something true - If I tithe to the church, or give this money then I will not have enough money for _____

Truth - **Philippians 4:19** - And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Does this mean that there will never be sacrifice? - No. Giving is always a sacrifice. There is always something else that can be done with the money. And it is sometimes scary.

Tina and I sacrificed for years. I drove a 4 cylinder truck for 18 years with 300,000 miles on it while giving away 3 times a monthly car payment every month.

- Story of giving my mom \$1000 and then getting \$1000 from insurance.
- Also story of getting \$1000 from Schrivens and giving \$1000 to Belinda, then Belinda giving \$1000

Let's talk about everyone's favorite subject - the law.

3 types of law.

- **Physical laws or laws of science**
 - Gravity = Physical law
 - Physical laws cannot be broken except by God (translocation).
- **Laws or rules.**
 - Do not murder = rules.
 - Rules can be broken.
- **Third type of law=Spiritual laws.**
 - God set these up so that even He cannot break them (Rainbow=never flood entire earth, I will never leave You, God cannot lie, etc...) Tithing and giving fall under a spiritual law.

Law of seed time and harvest

- **2 Corinthians 9:6-8** But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ So *let* each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.
- (Sowing as a blessing)

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

When we give as God directs us He then gives back. Sometimes instantly, sometimes not. But we are constantly storing up in Heaven. Does that mean when we are in Heaven we have a bank account? No - Heaven is here on earth. Eternity is now. And we can live under God's blessing every day.

The Israelites had sandals that did not go bad for 80 years. Then as soon as they could get new ones in the promised land, their shoes died. I had this happen with my truck. This is living under the blessed hand of God.

Acts 20:35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

How is it more blessed to give?

- It is worship.
- Giving removes our trust in ourselves and gives it back to God.
- It is a big test of our faith.
- Generosity takes us from being slaves of money, or having fear of money to being a master of money.
- It brings joy – even hilarity – to our lives.