

GIVING

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...he that giveth let him do it with simplicity... (Romans 12:6,8)

A person with the gift of giving has a special ability to give material goods and financial resources to the work of the Lord. He does it with joy and eagerness. The gift of giving also includes the giving of time, strength, and talents to the work of the Lord. The one requirement for a person with the gift of giving is that it is done with simplicity. The word simplicity as used here means liberally.

All Christians are to give to the work of the Lord:

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. (II Corinthians 9:7)

All believers are to give tithe from their income. The tithe is 10% of all that is earned. If believers do not give tithes and offerings, it is the same as robbing God:

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. (Malachi 3:8)

God has promised special blessings to those who tithe their income:

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

And all nations shall call you blessed; for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts. (Malachi 3:10-12)

According to this passage, those who give are promised:

1. Unnamed blessings from God, so great they cannot contain them. Verse 10
2. Blessings on the work which provides their income. Verse 11
3. They will be a blessing to the nations of the world. Verse 12
4. Their own land [nation] will be blessed. Verse 12

God blesses you financially upon the basis of how you give. He provides in order that you will have funds to give to the work of the Lord:

But this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully...

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. (II Corinthians 9:6,8)

Jesus also promised:

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. (Luke 6:38)

The way you are to acquire the money or goods to give is described in Ephesians:

Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with his hands, the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. (Ephesians 5:28)

Paul commented regarding the giving of the Philippian believers:

...the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God. (Philippians 4:18)

He indicated because their gifts were a sacrifice they had pleased God. Then he told these giving believers:

But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

This promise was made to those who had given to the work of the Lord. But remember: Although all believers are to give and are blessed of God for doing so, a person with the gift of giving has an unusual ability to give joyfully to the Lord; a special spiritual motivation to give.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

The following are Biblical examples of people who had an unusual ability to give to the Lord. It is possible they had the spiritual gift of giving:

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| -Widow: | Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4 |
| -Mary: | John 12:3-8 |
| -Galatian church: | Galatians 4:15 |
| -Philippian church: | Philippians 4:10-18 |
| -Macedonian churches: | II Corinthians 8:1-7 |

From what motivations must giving come? See Matthew 6:3; Ephesians 4:28; I Corinthians 13:3.