

## **The Giving Series Week 3: The Giving Habit Daily Devotions**

### **Day 1**

The habit of giving

1 John 3:16-18

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Christ demonstrated His perfect love for us by laying down (giving) His life for our salvation and as followers of Christ, we are ought to walk just as He did.

The above scripture tells us that just as Christ laid down His life for us, we need to do the same for others. We need to get into the habit of showing compassion to others just as He continually did.

We need to give of ourselves, our time and our possessions wherever we see a need. This is one characteristic that says we are children of God and we love Him. Christ continually conveyed the love of God by showing mercy even to those people that were deemed undeserving or seen as underserving by everyone else.

Let's make it a point to make giving our daily practice. Start with small things like sharing an encouraging word with your friends/family that may be feeling down or defeated, sharing your lunch with a friend in need or simply offering to help someone struggling with something you are good at like a sport or a subject.

The quoted portion of scripture commands us to not only love with speech or words but with actions and in truth. That compels us to act and giving as described above helps us to act and share the love of God with those around us.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the gifts You have blessed us with. Please help us to get into the habit of sharing our talents, abilities and material possessions with those in need around us just as Christ continued to give and show mercy to those in need at all times. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

## Day 2

The habit of giving

Malachi 3:10

Bring the full amount of your tithes to the temple, so that there will be plenty of food there. Put me to test and you will see that I will open the windows of Heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kind of things.

From yesterday's devotion we saw that God wants us to honor Him not only with our time and talents, but also with our material possessions.

The word in Malachi teaches us about giving our tenth (tithe) to God. We are commanded to give our tithes to the church so there may be no lack. As children of God, we know we are to obey His word and giving our tithe is a sign of obedience.

God in this commandment goes on to give us the assurance that when we obey this word and give our tithe, He will open the floodgates of heaven and pour out all kinds of good things on us. This commandment comes with a promise from God that when we obey His word, He will bless us with good things.

We all love our material possessions and that includes the money that we have/get. We have also learnt during this series that giving means sacrifice. Sacrificing something that's of value to us as an act of obedience to the word God shows that we love God and are grateful for the great sacrifice He made for us.

We need to learn to do as God requires us to. Among other things, We need to learn to give our tithe to God as He requires us to do so and it is a good thing to do. Also remember, our sacrifices are pleasing to God! "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." - Hebrews 13:16

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your word today. Thank You for trusting us with money. Please teach us to use it wisely knowing it all belongs to You. Teach us to sacrifice our money and honor Your teachings by giving our tithe. May it become our new habit. We pray in Jesus name.

Amen.

## Day 3

Honesty in giving

\_Psalm 84:11

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk in honesty. \_

When God gives grace or anything, He does not hold back. He always goes out of His way to give us His best. Our God is a perfectionist and gives everything in its fullest form.

In our giving practices, we need to strive to be like Him. In everything we do for Him and others, we need to learn to give our best and be honest while doing that.

We see in the above scripture above that God gives grace and glory to those who are honest and He does not withhold any good thing from them. When we are honest in our giving and everything we engage in, God will in return give us grace and all the good things we need.

In giving our tithe, for example, let us be honest. Your tithe is between you and God and only you will know how much your tithe will be. We do not need to rob God when we give our tithe, let us practice honesty knowing God gives all good things to those who are honest.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You that you love and trust us. Thank You for all the good things You continue to give to us. May you please forgive us where we have not been honest in our giving and help us to give in honesty. We pray all this in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

#### **Day 4**

Giving wholeheartedly

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

But this I say: He who gives sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as He purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. \_

God loves it when we give cheerfully and wholeheartedly, not when we sulk and complain when we give to Him or others. Giving from a cheerful heart requires a pure heart. We cannot give cheerfully or wholeheartedly when our hearts are not in the right place or are impure.

Before we present any gift whether to God or the people around us, we need to question our motive for doing so. Are we giving from a place of pride because we want to be recognized by people for our deeds so we can boast about what we have done/given or are we giving out of the goodness of our hearts to genuinely help where we see a need?

But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:3-4

When we give, we do not have to announce to others what we have done for the other. We need to give from a pure and cheerful heart, privately. And scripture tells us that when we

do so, God sees it and He will reward us for it. Let us continue to do good in helping others and giving even when we don't get any recognition for it. In everything good that you do, always remember that God recognizes it and will reward you for it. Let us not become tired of giving and doing good knowing that God will reward us for it.

Prayer

Thank you Heavenly Father for your word. We pray that You keep our hearts pure and take away any signs of pride in us. Help us to give wholeheartedly and cheerfully without complaining. We pray in Jesus name.

Amen.

## **Day 5**

Giving is worship

\_Psalm 150:6

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!\_

To worship God means to show reverence and adoration to him. The following are some of the synonyms to the word worship: honour, praise, bow down before, glorify, exalt. God has called each one of us to worship Him and to do so with all that we have and do. If you know what our mission statement is, you will know that it confirms this fact: "we exist to honour (worship) God..."

God wants us to worship Him with everything that we are, do and have. Giving to God is an act of worship to Him. When we give, we worship. Our sacrifices are worship to God.

Giving is a freeing experience as it connects us more closely to God and grows our relationship with Him. Giving is a way of saying thanks to God for His grace and provision. Giving goes beyond just the act itself, it taps into the deeper part of our connection to God. It allows us grow in faith as we worship God.

Let us continue to trust God with our lives and our possessions. As we continue to give, God will be glorified and we will grow closer to Him.

Prayer

Thank You Father that you are pleased with our worship. Teach us to trust You more with our lives and possessions. Guide us to be good stewards of all that You have trusted us with and that we may sacrifice more of it to worship You. We pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

## **Day 6**

\*It is better to give than receive

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\_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.' \_

Once again the importance of giving is reiterated in scripture where Paul teaches us about supporting the weak (giving) and reminding us about Jesus' teaching on how it is more blessed to give than it is to receive. We see this again in the book of Proverbs 22:9, He who has a generous eye eye will be blessed, for he give of his bread to the poor.

God has been teaching us over and over again throughout the week why we should give, what we can and how we should give. It is clear at this point that our giving is important to God and He takes delight in it.

The more we give, the more blessed we are. Let us honor God's desire for us to give to continue to live in His blessing and provision. Everything we give to God will be given back to us. "Give and it will be given back to you...for the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you." Trust God with your gifts and devote your all to Him and He will give you in return that same measure.

Prayer

Thank You Lord for Your word. Thank You for Your promises and blessings. Thank you for your undying love for us. We love You Lord.

Amen

## **Day 7**

No condemnation for those in Christ

\_Proverbs 3:12

For the Lord corrects those whom He loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.\_

We all know that God loves us and would like for us to live according to His purpose. Living according to His purpose means we listen to Him when He speaks to us and honour His word by obeying His teachings and instructions even when it feels uncomfortable.

For some of us, giving, especially our tenth has been a challenge and we may at this point feel rebuked or condemned for not giving our tenth. God speaks to us sometimes to correct us or remind us of what He takes delight in and wants for us to do. He does so in love and with lots of love just as our parents correct us when we deviate from their instructions or disobey their requirements.

The word of God does not come to us to condemn us or make us feel bad. God gives us His word to accomplish His purpose. "So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11

As we come to the end of the giving series, may we take all the teachings and everything we have learnt about giving as a new challenge. Let's receive it and apply it in our lives and establish new habits of giving and see how much more the Lord will do for us.

#### Prayer

Thank You Father for your teachings about giving. Please help us to open up to this new habit of giving that You take delight in. Teach us to obey You at all times and not take offence at Your word. Help us to hear You more and more and do as You ask us to do. We pray in the mighty name of Jesus.

Amen.