

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 15

GIVING

1. REASONS TO GIVE

A. Giving is one way to show love.

God wanted to show us how much He loved us. He chose to give us the greatest Gift in heaven.

Who is this Gift? John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 9:15

What did Jesus Christ give up for us because He loved us? Philippians 2:5-8



We love God because He first loved us, 1 John 4:19. Those who truly love will want to give. When we truly love God, we will want to give to Him.

B. Giving brings thankfulness and praise to God.

2 Corinthians 9:7-11. (N.L.T.)

Each man should give as he has decided in his heart. He should not give, wishing he could keep it. Or he should not give if he feels he has to give. God loves a man who gives because he wants to give. God can give you all you need. He will give you more than enough. You will have everything you need for yourselves. And you will have enough left over to give when there is a need. . . . It is God Who gives seed to the man to plant. He also gives bread to eat. Then we know He will give you more seed to plant and make it grow so you will have more to give away. God will give you enough so you can always give to others. Then many will give thanks to God for sending gifts through us.

What will people do when we give to them?

Why should we give?

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- Giving returns to God what belongs to Him.
- Giving is obeying God's command.

C. Giving returns to God what belongs to Him.

- **All that we have comes from God.**

Sometimes we hear people say, "We have worked hard for what we have. We do not HAVE to give it away". To better understand what God wants us to give, let us see what He did for us.

What does Deuteronomy 8:17,18 say about this?

Read 1 Chronicles 29:14. Who gives us all things?

To whom do our bodies belong? 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

It is true that what we have has been lent to us. We are to give it back to God. We are to use it to bring honor and glory to Him.

Because _____ has made us, we should also give Him our life. Psalm 100:3.

Why should we return things to God?

- **Stewardship.**

In Bible days a rich man would give his field to one of his workers. The worker would plant that field and take care of it. When the worker would take the crop off the field, he would give the crop back to his boss. This pleased the boss. The workman is the steward. The field is his stewardship. God has given us the ability to do different things. We are stewards of these abilities He has given us. We are to use these abilities to please God.

How are we to use the abilities God has given to us?

D. Giving is obeying God's command.

If we obey God and give to Him, what will He do for us? Malachi 3:10

Why should we give?

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2. WHAT TO GIVE

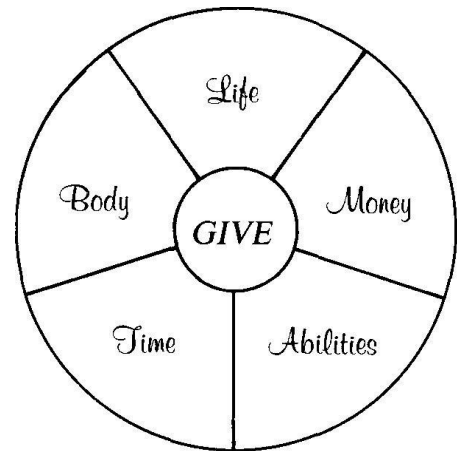
We should give to God 1) our lives, 2) our bodies, 3) our time, 4) our abilities and 5) our money.

A. Our lives.

To whom do we belong? 1 Peter 1:18,19

Why do we belong to Him?

What was the first thing the Macedonian Christians gave to the Lord? 2 Corinthians 8:5



B. Our bodies.

When we give ourselves to the Lord, we give Him our bodies, Romans 12:1. Our bodies are to be used to do His work.

How are we to use our bodies? Romans 6:13

Who lives in our bodies? 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

What should we give to God?

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- Our time.
- Our abilities.
- Our money.

C. Our time.

We have many things to do every day. We are busy, yet God wants us to give Him our time. He wants us to take time to read His Word and pray to Him. To teach, train and take care of

our children is also a way that we give time to God. He wants us to tell others about Him. God may ask us to teach the Bible to others. He may want us to go and visit a sick person. There are many things He may ask us to do.

D. Our abilities.

Some people can do one thing well. Other people can do a different thing well. We say, "They have the ability to sing well." or "They have the ability to make good food."

Name some of God's gifts we are to use as we work for Him, Romans 12:6-8.

We should serve God with the abilities He has given us.

What should we give to God?

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- Our money.

How are we to use the abilities God has given us?

E. Our money.

There is one other thing that God wants from us, and that is our money. A person who has given his whole life to the Lord will not find it hard to give his money to the Lord. His money really means much to him because he worked to get it. The giving of money is a very loving thing to do. Paul tells us to put aside some of our money every week, 1 Corinthians 16:2,3.

What was this money to be used for?

What should we give to God?

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3. WAYS TO GIVE

There are four different ways in which we are to give. They are: generously, cheerfully, regularly and give God's part.

A. Give generously.

We should be glad to give. We should not be stingy.

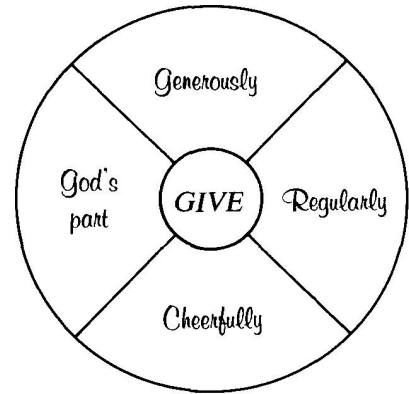
What does 2 Corinthians 9:6,7 tell us will happen if we give generously?

What does Proverbs 11:24 tell us about giving?

In 1 Kings 17:8-16 we read how God took care of a widow lady.

What promise is in Proverbs 3:9,10?

When we give to God generously, He will give us what we need and often much more.



B. Give cheerfully.

We should be happy because we have a chance to give to God. It is something special we can do for Him.

How does God feel about a cheerful giver? 2 Corinthians 9:7

How did the Israelites give for the tabernacle and for the temple? Exodus 35:21-29 and 1 Chronicles 29:9

How should we give?

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- regularly
- God's part

C. Give regularly.

When we give regularly, we give a certain amount of money every week or every month. This depends on how often we get our pay. If we give regularly, we form a habit of giving. Then we do not forget to give.

What does Paul tell us to do in 1 Corinthians 16:2?

D. Give God's part.

This means to give a certain part of our money to the Lord. We will give according to what we have earned or received. In other words, if we get ten dollars, we give the Lord one dollar. If we get twenty dollars, we give Him two dollars. This is what God is really asking us to do. It is called "tithing." Abraham tithed before the Law was given to Moses, Genesis 14:17-20. This is the smallest amount we should give to God. When we see what He has done for us, we certainly should want to do more for Him.

What did the Lord say about the gift that the poor widow lady gave in the temple? Luke 21:1-4

How did it compare with other gifts?

Why was Jesus pleased with her gifts?

How should we give?

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4. WHERE TO GIVE

Someone might ask, "Where can we give our money in the right way?"

What did Jesus tell us to do? Matthew 6:19,20

The Bible tells us where we can give our money.

A. We can give to the poor, Proverbs 19:17.

We must be careful about this. There are those who are poor because they use their money to buy drink. The writer does not believe it is right to give to those who will use it to get drunk. However, if they really need food or clothing, we can give them as much as they need of these things.

B. To whom else can we give? Galatians 6:6

C. We are told in Matthew 28:19,20 to tell all people about Jesus. List several ways that money can be used to help tell others about Jesus.

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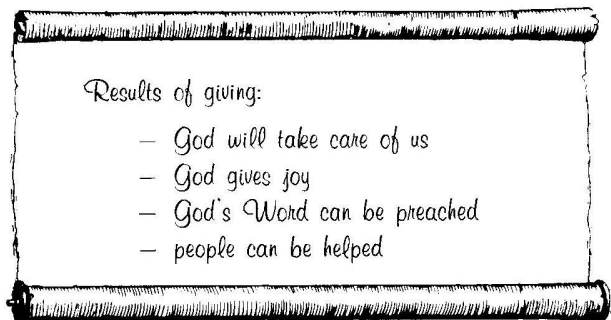
Do you remember where we should give?

- To the poor.
- To our teachers.
- To those who preach the gospel.

4. RESULTS OF GIVING

The results of giving are:

- God will take care of us
- God gives joy
- God's Word can be preached
- People can be helped



A. God will take care of us.

The church at Philippi sent money to help Paul in his ministry.

What did Paul promise them because of this? Philippians 4:14-19

What does God promise to those who give? 2 Corinthians 9:8

What else did Jesus promise to those who give? Luke 6:38

B. God gives joy.

What does Acts 20:35 tell us about giving?

What are the results of giving?

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- God's Word can be preached.
- People can be helped.

C. God's Word can be preached.

The people from Philippi helped Paul when he needed help, Philippians 4:14-18.

What is needed before we can go and teach the Good News? Romans 10:14,15

D. People can be helped.

Who helped Paul? 2 Corinthians 11:9

What are the results of giving?

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MEMORY VERSE

Memorize: 2 Corinthians 9:7

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1. Why should we return things to God?

2. How are we to use the abilities God has given to us?

3. Why should we give?

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4. What should we give to God?

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5. To whom should we give?

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6. How should we give?

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7. What are the results of giving?

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WORDS TO LEARN

1. ability - to be able to do something well.
2. cheerfully - gladly; happily.
3. compare - to see and to think about two or more things, then see how they are alike or how they are different.
4. depend - this is because of
5. generous - giving a lot, not stingy.
6. regular - something we do every day, week or month; usual; always the same.
7. steward - one who takes care of someone else's things so the owner will get more from it.
8. stewardship - the owner's things that a steward takes care of.
9. tabernacle - the "tent church" where the Israelites worshipped.
10. temple - the great house of God.
11. tithing - God has asked us to give back to Him 10% of what we earn or receive. 10% is \$1.00 out of \$10.00 or \$2.00 out of \$20.00.

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