

## Basic Disciplines for Believers: #4 – Generous Giving

### The Benefits of Giving

#1: **Bible Saturation** (Joshua 1:8) – #2: **Continual Prayer** (Colossians 4:2) – #3: **Willful Submission** (Romans 13:1-2)

**Generous Giving: I am responding to God's giving by giving myself and my resources for His use.**

2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

Prov 3:9-10 <sup>9</sup>Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; <sup>10</sup>So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

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.'

#### 1. I reflect God's character (John 3:16; Rom 6:23; 2 Cor 9:15)

- John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 2 Cor 9:15 Thanks *be* to God for His indescribable gift!

#### 2. I obey God's commands (Luke 6:38)

- 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."

#### 3. I acknowledge God's ownership of all my possessions (Ps 24:1; Prov 3:9-10; 1 Cor 4:7)

- Psalms 24:1 A Psalm of David. The earth *is* the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.
- Prov 3:9-10 <sup>9</sup>Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; <sup>10</sup>So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.
- 1 Cor 4:7 For who makes you differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received *it*?
- James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

#### 4. I support God's workers (Gal 6:6-10; 1 Tim 5:17-18)

- Gal 6:6-10 <sup>6</sup>Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. <sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup>For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. <sup>9</sup>And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- 1 Tim 5:17-18 <sup>17</sup>Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. <sup>18</sup>For the Scripture says, "*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,*" and, "The laborer *is* worthy of his wages."

#### 5. I further God's message (2 Cor 8:9; 1 Cor 9:4-14; Phil 4:10-19)

- 2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
- 1 Cor 9:4-14 <sup>4</sup>Do we have no right to eat and drink? <sup>5</sup>Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as *do* also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? <sup>6</sup>Or *is it* only Barnabas and I *who* have no right to refrain from working? <sup>7</sup>Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? <sup>8</sup>Do I say these things as a *mere* man? Or does not the law say the same also? <sup>9</sup>For it is written in the law of Moses, "*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.*" Is it oxen God is concerned about? <sup>10</sup>Or does He say *it* altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, *this* is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. <sup>11</sup>If we have sown spiritual things for you, *is it* a great thing if we reap your material things? <sup>12</sup>If others are partakers of *this* right over you, *are* we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. <sup>13</sup>Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat *of the things* of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of *the offerings* of the altar? <sup>14</sup>Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.
- Phil 4:10-19 <sup>10</sup>But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. <sup>11</sup>Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content. <sup>12</sup>I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. <sup>14</sup>Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities. <sup>17</sup>Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

## 6. I help God's needy people (2 Cor 8:1-14; 9:1-17; 1 Jn 3:16-18)

- a. Acts 4:32-35 <sup>32</sup>Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, <sup>35</sup>and laid *them* at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.
- b. 1 Cor 16:1-3 <sup>1</sup>Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: <sup>2</sup>On the first *day* of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. <sup>3</sup>And when I come, whomever you approve by *your* letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem.
- c. 2 Cor 8:1-14
- d. 2 Cor 9:1-17
- e. Gal 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- f. Titus 3:14 And let our *people* also learn to maintain good works, to *meet* urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.
- g. James 2:14-17 <sup>14</sup>What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? <sup>17</sup>Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
- h. James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.
- i. 1 John 3:16-18 <sup>16</sup>By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. <sup>17</sup>But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? <sup>18</sup>My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

## 7. I experience God's gracious rewards now and in eternity

- a. 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."
- b. Matt 10:42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold *water* in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."
- c. Matt 19:27-30 <sup>27</sup>Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" <sup>28</sup>So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup>And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. <sup>30</sup>But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first.
- d. Matt 25:34-40 <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; <sup>36</sup>I *was* naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? <sup>38</sup>When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*?<sup>39</sup> Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'
- e. Mark 10:28-31 <sup>28</sup>Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You." <sup>29</sup>So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, <sup>30</sup>who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time--houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions--and in the age to come, eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first."
- f. Luke 6:35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.
- g. Phil 4:15-19 <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities. <sup>17</sup>Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

## 8. To enjoy and facilitate meeting places and modern comforts (any relation to the OT temple?)