

GIVING

1 "Why Become a Generous Giver?"

2 I. Giving to God allows you to see God as your Provider.

3 Deut 8:17–18 “You may say to yourself, ‘My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.’”

18 But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth,

4 1 Chronicles 29:14-17 “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this?”

5 1 Kings 17:10-14 (Amplified Bible)

10 So Elijah arose and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her, Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

11 As she was going to get it, he called to her and said, Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.

12 And she said, As the Lord your God lives, I have not a loaf baked but only a handful of meal in the jar and a little oil in the bottle. See, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and bake it for me and my son, that we may eat it--and die.

13 Elijah said to her, Fear not; go and do as you have said. But make me a little cake of [it] first and bring it to me, and afterward prepare some for yourself and your son.

14 For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: The jar of meal shall not waste away or the bottle of oil fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.

“Don’t be afraid,” vs. 14.

6 “Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”

7 “And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.”

8 “Is the Master in charge of your life or is MasterCard in charge of your life?”

9 II. Generous giving allows you to overcome financial fear and worry.

10 1 Kings 17:12 For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: “The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land.”

1 Kings 17:24 (Amplified Bible)

24 And the woman said to Elijah, By this I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.

11 What I am saying is trust God with your finances, learn to give to him first, and He will provide.

12 III. Generous giving allows you to bring order to your finances.

13 Proverbs 23:4-5 (Amplified Bible)

4 Weary not yourself to be rich; cease from your own [human] wisdom.

5 Will you set your eyes upon wealth, when [suddenly] it is gone? For riches certainly make themselves wings, like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.

14 The purpose of tithing is to teach you to give to God. Look at Deuteronomy 14:22 (Amplified Bible)

22 You shall surely tithe all the yield of your seed produced by your field each year.

15 Giving to God is your first financial button, not your investments, not your house payment, not your bills, but to God.

16 Malachi 3:10-11 10 Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now by it, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer [insects and plagues] for your sakes and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground, neither shall your vine drop its fruit before the time in the field, says the Lord of hosts.

17 God says the same to each of us, trust me; I will catch you in your finances.

18 IV. Generous giving allows you to live a life of Joy.

19 2 Corinthians 8:7 (Amplified Bible)

7 Now as you abound and excel and are at the front in everything--in faith, in expressing yourselves, in knowledge, in all zeal, and in your love for us--[see to it that you come to the front now and] abound and excel in this gracious work [of almsgiving] also.

20 You can be a faithful tither and never become a generous giver.

21 1 Corinthians 16:2

2 On the first [day] of each week, let each one of you [personally] put aside something and save it up as he has prospered [in proportion to what he is given], so that no collections will need to be taken after I come.

22 God's desire is always calling us to "excel" in the grace of giving and take steps forward to become more generous.

23 If you desire joy in your life as a Christian then try to out give God.