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Christian Giving

Giving in Scripture

Giving in Genesis: 1st mention: In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. Gen.4:3-5

Giving in the Law: Type: No man should appear before the LORD empty-handed: Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you. Deut. 16:16-17

Giving in the Psalms: Sacred Song: The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously; Ps. 37:21

Giving in the Prophets: Prophecy: Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. Mal.3:10

Giving in the Gospels: Taught by Christ: Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. Matt. 23:23

Giving in Acts: Practised by Apostles: There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. Acts 4:34-35

Giving in the Epistles: Doctrine: Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. 1Cor.16:1-2

Why do we give?

Obedience

God doesn't need our money: I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a

thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. Psalms 50:9-12

God wants willing obedience: But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Psalms 51:12 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Psalms 51:17

It is always good to do what is right: Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." (we must carry out all that God requires. NLT) Matt.3:15 And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right. 2Thes.3:13

God's commands are not hard: If you love me, you will obey what I command. John 14:15 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, John 5:3 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matt.11:28-30

Appreciation

Our words show what is important to us: The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks. Luke 6:45 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matt.6:21

Although words can be cheap, giving shows our true values: Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little. She has done a beautiful thing to me... She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her. These are the regulations for the fellowship offering a person may present to the LORD: If he offers it as an expression of thankfulness, then along with this thank offering he is to offer cakes of bread made without yeast and mixed with oil, wafers made without yeast and spread with oil, and cakes of fine flour well-kneaded and mixed with oil. Lev.7:11-12

Faith

All we have is from God. He wants us to trust Him as our Provider rather than trusting in our own ability or possessions: God wants our faith (or trust) to grow: He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Deut.8:3 Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in another man's territory. Con. 10:15-16 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. Deut. 8:18 So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." Gen. 22:14

To help us trust Him, God asks us to tithe. Tithing is giving cheerfully and in faith the 1st part of our income to God through the local Church. It is normally accepted that Tithing is 10% of one's income: "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offering. You are under a curse--the whole nation of you-because you are robbing me. Mal.3:8-9

Although Tithing is an OT teaching, the principles don't change in the NT: You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practised the latter, without neglecting the former. Matt. 23:23

God has already given us so much: From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. John 1:16 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Rom.8:32

God knows what we need and He will meet our needs: So do not worry, saying, `What shall we eat?' or `What shall we drink?' or `What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you as well. Matt.6:31-33 And God is able to make all

grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ^{2Cor.9:8}

God's principles work: Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. Mal.3:10 Do good to your servant according to your word, O LORD. Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I believe in your commands. Psalms 119:65-66 Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them. And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. Thes.2:13

Seeds

Our giving is a seed and it will produce a harvest: Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Gal.6:7

Seeds sown produce more seeds: One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. Prov.11:24-25 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. Pemember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. Cor.9:9-10

A Harvest requires good seed and good soil. We should be careful where and what we sow if we want a good harvest: A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the

plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.] Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Matthew 13:3-8

A seed grows by itself when planted in good soil: He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain--first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." Mark 4:26-29

Harvest (the reaping of what we sow) is guaranteed by God: As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. Gen.8:22 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Gal.6:9

Sowing can be hard work and frustrating as we wait for the harvest: Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them. Ps.126:5-6

But in the NT Kingdom of God the sower and reaper work together and they rejoice together: I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour. ^{In.4:36}

We are to sow to the heavens i.e. look to God for reward rather than the person we have helped: "In that day I will respond," declares the LORD—'I will respond to the skies and they will respond to the earth; and the earth will respond to the grain, the new wine and the olive oil and they will respond to Jezreel (God plants). I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called Not my loved one.' I will say to those called Not my people,' You are my people'; and they will say, 'You are my God.' Hos.2:21

God will credit our heavenly account: Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account Phil.4:17

How to give

As a Priority:

In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering, Gen.4:34 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." Luke 21:2

As a Percentage:

No man should appear before the LORD empty-handed: Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you. Deut.16:16-17 Each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, 1Cor.16:2

As a Partner:

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Phil. 1:4-5 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; Phil. 4:15 Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Gal. 6:6

As a Privilege - To give is to be like God:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. ^{2Cor.8:9} Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. ^{2Cor.8:34} God should be honoured with our finances: Honour the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. ^{Prov.3:9-10}

Fully Persuaded:

Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. Deut 15:10 The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD. 1Chron. 29:9

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ^{2Cor.9:7}

Where to give

Tithes belong to the Storehouse (which is the place where we receive our regular food): *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.* Mal.3:10

The New Testament Storehouse is our local Church: Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because when the ploughman ploughs and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? 1Cor.9:10-13 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." 1Tim.5:17-18

We can also give to other ministries: I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to visit you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while. Rom. 15:24 They have told the church about your love. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth. 3John 1:6-8

We should give to the poor and those in genuine need: The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. Acts 10:4 For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. Rom. 15:26 He who despises his neighbour, sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy. Prov. 14:21 He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God. Prov. 14:31 He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done. Prov. 19:17 He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses. Prov. 28:27 Give proper recognition to those

widows who are really in need. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. Tim.5:3-5 If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need. Tim.5:16 We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. 2Thes.3:9-12

Results

Every need is met: And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Phil.4:19

No lack: Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" "Nothing," they answered. Luke 22:35 Because of your great compassion you did not abandon them in the desert. By day the pillar of cloud did not cease to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take. You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst. For forty years you sustained them in the desert; they lacked nothing, their clothes did not wear out nor did their feet become swollen. Neb.9:19-21 The LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. ...the LORD your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything. Deul.2:7 a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. Deul.8:9

Prosperity: Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. ^{3John 1:2} The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it. ^{Prov.10:22} Misfortune pursues the sinner, but prosperity is the reward of the righteous. ^{Prov.13:21} Who, then, is the man that fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him. He will spend his days in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land. ^{Psalms 25:12-13} Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways. You will eat the fruit of your labour; blessings and prosperity will be yours. ^{Psalms 128:1-2} I love those who

love me, and those who seek me find me. With me are riches and honour, enduring wealth and prosperity. Prov.8:17-18 A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. Prov.11:25 To the peoples, nations and men of every language, who live in all the world: May you prosper greatly! Daniel 4:1

Note: prosperity is not an abundance of money neither is poverty a lack of money – they are both attitudes of the heart. My dear brothers and sisters, listen to me. Hasn't God chosen those who are poor in the world's eyes to be rich in faith? Hasn't he chosen them to receive the kingdom? Hasn't he promised it to those who love him? Better the poor whose walk is blameless than the rich whose ways are perverse. Prov. 28:6 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: ... sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. 2Cor. 6:4-10

Stewardship

Stewardship is a Partnership of giving and receiving. Paul commended the church at Philippi for just that: Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. Phil4:14-18

God has given us everything we need: God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. All of that has come to us because we know the One who chose us. He chose us because of his own glory and goodness. He has also given us his very great and valuable promises. He did it so you could share in his nature. He also did it so you could escape from the evil in the world. 2Pet.1:3-4

God owns everything and enables us work: But remember the LORD your God. He gives you the ability to produce wealth. That shows he stands by the terms of his covenant. He promised it with an oath to your people long ago. And he's still faithful to his covenant today. LORD, you give us peace. You are the one who has done everything we've accomplished. Is. 26:12

But we are to give back to God a proportion of what He has already given us: On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum

of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. $^{1Cor.16:2}$

God has called us to be Stewards of His creation — we should use it but not abuse it: God blessed them. He said to them, "Have children and increase your numbers. Fill the earth and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the waters and the birds of the air. Rule over every living creature that moves on the ground." (Take charge! Be responsible ... for every living thing. The its master. Govern it. The righteous care for the needs of their animals, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel. Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense. Prov. 12:10

As Stewards, God expects us to be faithful: Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful (Believing). 1Cor.4:2

We always have enough to share because God gives fruit with seed in it - bread to eat and seed to sow: Then God said, "I am giving you every plant on the face of the whole earth that bears its own seeds. I am giving you every tree that has fruit with seeds in it. All of them will be given to you for food."

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ^{2Cor.9:10}

God rewards faithfulness: Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? Math. 24:45 His master replied, Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness! Math. 25:21 A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished. Prov. 28:20 Love the LORD, all his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full. Ps. 31:23 To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless, 25am. 22:26 (Also Ps. 18:25)

We should not be anxious about finances but expect God to provide for our ever need: Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. Prov.23:4 In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat - for he grants sleep to those he loves. Ps.127:2 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these

things will be given to you as well. Luke 12:29-31 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Phil.4:19

If we are faithful with money God will give us true riches: Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? Luke 16:10-12

If you pay tax & don't Gift Aid your giving, are you a good Steward?

Money is only an expression of the effort and energy that we have exerted in life. So to think of giving only in terms of money is to sell ourselves short. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. Tim.6:10 Don't be controlled by love for money. Be happy with what you have Heb.13:5

Christian Giving is about sharing (sowing) what we have received from God, especially Jesus the Word: This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Lk.8:11 Giving has great rewards — it is Godlike, it is a blessing, and produces a harvest: Remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35 The blessing of the LORD makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it. Prov. 10:22NLT Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed. Prov. 11:24-25 NLT

Fellowship means a sharing, a participation and a partnering. — see the following uses of the word in the NT: They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship (they shared life together NITV), to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42 James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Lk. 5:10 I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now; Phil. 1:3-5 Is not the cup of thanks giving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Icor. 10:16

By giving (sowing) we are sharing the life God has given us. May the grace shown by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love that God has given us, and the sharing of life brought about by the Holy Spirit be with you all. NITV 2Cor. 13:14

A Prayer of Confession over my Giving

Father, in the Name of Jesus, I confess that Your Word reigns over every area of my life.

You give me the ability to produce wealth and so confirm Your covenant. Deut. 8:18

I bring my whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house. Mal.3:10

I am generous and freely give, knowing that I will prosper. Prov. 11:24-25

I give generously, cheerfully and willingly, knowing that You will make me rich in every way, so I can be generous on every occasion. ^{2Cor.9:6-11}

I am a partner with You in giving and receiving, confident of You crediting my account and supplying all my needs according to Your glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Phil.4:15-19

Because I obey You, I am blessed when I go out and when I come in. You send a blessing on everything I put my hand to. Deut. 28:1-8

Your blessing brings wealth and You add no trouble to it. Prov. 10:22

Good health, full life and prosperity is my inheritance in Jesus and the reward of the righteous. Ps.1:1-3; Prov.13:21; Jn.10:10; 3Jn.1:2

Father, I thank you for total prosperity in Jesus Name AMEN - I make this prayer mine

Note: confessing or affirming scripture is not a technique to get what you want in life but rather a means of building the truths of God's Word into your life and consciousness in total dependence on the Holy Spirit.



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