

## THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF GIVING TO THE LORD

*Blessed be the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

Let us take a moment to explore a spiritual principle that is often misunderstood and sometimes overlooked—**the importance of giving** in the life of a believer. This is not just about money; it's about understanding the heart of God, the mission of Christ, and our calling as disciples.

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### 1. The Spiritual Battle Over Giving

One of the areas the enemy fiercely attacks is the spirit of generosity. Satan understands that giving is both a *spiritual weapon* and a *blessing channel*. He does not want anyone—believers or non-believers—to develop a generous heart.

Even non-believers, when they give, can experience God's principles in action.

**Proverbs 11:25 (NIV)** says,

“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

Satan resists this truth by promoting selfishness, materialism, and fear of lack—he wants people to be closed-hearted, always thinking they don’t have enough to give.

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## 2. Giving Reflects the Nature of God

*God is the ultimate Giver. The foundation of the Gospel is giving. John 3:16 (NIV) says,*

“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.”

When we give, we reflect the very nature of God. It becomes an act of worship, an expression of love, and a tangible sign that we trust God as our provider.

### 3. Christ Identifies with the Needy

Jesus made it clear that what we do (or don't do) for others, we do (or don't do) for Him.

In **Matthew 25:35-40 (NIV)**, Jesus says:

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat... I was a stranger and you invited me in... I was in prison and you came to visit me... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Notice that Jesus refers to the **"least of these brothers and sisters of mine."** He is speaking about *fellow believers*, especially those who suffer for their faith or are in difficult circumstances. These are not just anyone in need, but those in whom Christ dwells by His Spirit.

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### 4. Even Jesus "Needs" Today

This is a theological mystery but a biblical reality: although Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 1:3), **He still**

**experiences suffering through His body—the Church.**

**Acts 9:4-5 (NIV)** recounts Saul’s encounter with Christ:

“Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.”

Even though Saul was persecuting Christians, Jesus took it personally. In the same way, when we ignore or help a suffering believer, Jesus sees it as done to Him.

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#### 5. Prosperity Doesn’t Eliminate Trials

There’s a popular teaching today that says if you are saved, you will never be poor, sick, or suffer. But this contradicts the life of Jesus and His apostles.

**2 Corinthians 6:4-5 (NIV)** says:

“...as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger.”

God allows seasons of need not because He is unjust, but to test faith, refine character, and provide opportunities for others to bless and be blessed.

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#### 6. Giving Invites Blessing

Helping those in need—especially fellow believers—is a direct investment in God’s kingdom. Jesus said in **Mark 9:41 (NIV)**:

“Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.”

Even the smallest act of kindness done in Christ's name carries eternal significance. God records and rewards every act of generosity done with the right heart.

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7. Giving Is Everyone's Responsibility

Generosity isn't reserved for the rich, the clergy, or church elders. It is a calling for all believers.

**Galatians 6:10 (NIV)** says:

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

This includes financial help, hospitality, encouragement, prayer, and practical support.

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Conclusion: Give with Purpose and Faith

God doesn't need our money—**He owns everything**. But He allows us to partner with Him through giving so that our hearts can grow in love,

and so that His people can be supported and strengthened.

When we give to fellow believers in need, we are giving to Christ Himself.

So don't withhold your hand. Don't ignore the prompting to help. Whether it's a financial offering, a visit to someone in prison, food for the hungry, or even just a word of encouragement—**do it as unto the Lord.**

And remember Jesus' words:

**Acts 20:35 (NIV)**

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

**Maranatha - The Lord is coming soon.**

Let us be found faithful, loving, and generous.

**Please share this message with others—it might be the**

**encouragement they need today.**

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