

The blessings of giving

Text: Acts 20:35



Hi everybody,

Received a letter this morning from one of our elders voicing concern about the way we choose to operate the church. I have found that a large amount of our time, our energy and our discussions tends to be centered around policies and rules designed to keep everything under lock and key. We

also tend to spend far too much time discussing money and budgets to the point where we nearly exclude God and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps it is about time that we return to the basics and start being more generous with our lives and our churches.

This morning while I was preparing to leave the house my youngest daughter reminded me about all the preparation and things we still needed to do for Christmas . I am so glad she did this because for her Christmas is very important. Somehow she has already started to grasp the deeper blessings and rewards of giving and receiving. You see when you are very young (at least when I was young), you are usually preoccupied with what you are getting for Christmas. But as you get older, you start learning the joy of giving, and you actually find that it is indeed more of a blessing to give than it is to receive.

The point I am trying to make is that we need to learn to be generous with everything that God has given to us (this includes our churches and our resources). Jesus said, **“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”** (Luke 6:38). You cannot outgive God.

So let's learn the joy of giving. Let's learn the joy of giving of our time, our resources, our talents and abilities – whatever God has given to us. Some of us hoard what God has given them, not wanting to give, not wanting to share what we have received abundantly, not understanding that as you give out, more is given to you: **“The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself”** (Proverbs 11:25).

The truth is it actually helps me when I can help you. It blesses me when I can bless you. And I will let you in on a little discovery I have made: *I am probably more blessed giving than those who are receiving.* If you apply that principle yourself, then you will learn a wonderful secret: the joy of giving in every area of your life. Have you discovered that secret yet?

Dear friends, for each passing day we come a little closer to the coming of Jesus. So make every day count. Don't waste your life. Give out of what God has given you. Live your life well and discover what a blessing it is to give whether personally or corporately as a church.

God bless
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