

GIVING

SCRIPTURAL TEACHINGS

I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD which cost me nothing. 2 Samuel 24:24
The idea of sacrifice is hard-wired into the concept of giving.

Do you believe God owns everything? Do you really? Probe a little deeper. Read Job 41:11

We should do our giving in such a way that the beneficiaries of our giving are compelled to praise our Father who is in Heaven. Read Matthew 5:16

We never want to do our giving so we will be praised for it. We should do it so God will be praised for it.
Read Matthew 5:16

Our singular motivation for giving is solely for the purpose of bringing honor to the Lord.
Matthew 5:16 says, "glorify your Father who is in Heaven."

There are two really good reasons why you SHOULD make your giving known. Read Matthew 5:16

Our generous giving should compel people to give praise and glory to our Father who is in heaven and not to us here on earth. Read Matthew 5:16

Matthew 5:16 ...let your light shine before men, that they will see your good works and give glory to your Father. Make sure God gets the glory, not you.

Jesus' message about giving is simple: 1. Give, 2. Give purely, 3. Give purely to glorify God and motivate others.
Read Matthew 6



SCRIPTURAL TEACHINGS

Giving is not about secrecy, but rather it is about motive. Read Matthew 6

We must not overlook the obvious. Jesus tells us “when you give.” He does not say “if you give.”

Read Matthew 6

Contrary to popular thought, in giving God is not as concerned about secrecy as He is about motive.

Read Matthew 6

Sacrificial giving is not an optional practice for a good and faithful steward.

Jesus says in Matthew 6:2, “WHEN you give...,” not “IF you give”!

When it comes to giving we must not overlook the obvious.

Jesus tells us “WHEN you give” – He does not say IF you give. Matthew 6:2

Matthew 6:2-4 is not addressing the method of our giving (known/secret).

It is addressing the motive for our giving (self-praised/God-praised).

When it comes to giving, you may ask, “What’s in it for me?” Read Matthew 6:19-20

The most radical giving statement in the entire New Testament was a teaching moment

Jesus had with his disciples. Read Luke 21:1-4

One of the most radical giving passages in the entire New Testament is found in Luke 21:1-4. See for yourself!

Jesus reverses the common definitions of a big giver and small giver. Read Luke 21:1-4

Do yourself and others a favor. Share your giving stories. They are contagious and inspiring.

A HEALTHY love for the world desires to GIVE something TO it. John 3:16

A SICK love for the world desires to GET something FROM it. 1 John 2:15

One of the great spiritual paradoxes is how when we give,
we actually benefit more than the recipient of our giving. Read Acts 20:35

Is giving or receiving more fun? Guess who gives us the answer? Read Acts 20:35

It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 22:35

What does it mean to give your body as a living sacrifice? Read Romans 12:1

SCRIPTURAL TEACHINGS

So you think you don't have enough to give really extravagantly? Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

The beginning of living a genuinely generous life is giving yourself first to the Lord. Read 2 Corinthians 8:5

The Bible doesn't tell us how much to give, so how can we know how much we should give?

Here's how. Read 2 Corinthians 9:7

How much to give? Second Corinthians 9:7 tells us: Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give. Let your heart be your guide.

How are we supposed to know how much to give to the Lord?

Give me a minute and I'll tell you: Read 2 Corinthians 9:7

If you want to get the most out of your giving, let God, not man, tell you how much to give.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7

Do you want to know how to make giving both an addictive and joyful experience? Read 2 Corinthians 9:7

Giving generously by faith produces a cheerful giver who is giving out of overflowing joy. See 2 Corinthians 9:7

God loves a cheerful giver... 2 Corinthians 9:7

Ephesians 4:19 says, Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality ... with a continual lust for more. Do you always lust for more?

Ephesians 4:19, Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

How do people get caught up in materialism? Read Ephesians 4:19

Do you want two compelling reasons for why to give? Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

You make a living by what you GET, but you make a life by what you GIVE. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Do you want two compelling reasons why to give? Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

You see, "life indeed" is not found in what you get or in what you keep. It is found in what you give.

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

SCRIPTURAL TEACHINGS

Give, so you won't be needy anymore. Now, in your giving you will become "rich in good works."

1 Timothy 6:18

Finding "life indeed" (1 Timothy 6:19 NASB) comes, not from what you GET,
but from what you GIVE, another counter-intuitive, spiritual truth.

Give me one minute to offer a powerful thought on how our love for the things of this world can hinder
our service to Him. Read 2 Timothy 4:10

Does your giving PROVOKE others to be bigger givers? Read Hebrews 10:24

Let me share with you a powerful thought from Peter regarding the gifts we have been given
and WHY we were given them. 1 Peter 4:10

JAY LINK

God wants our giving to Him and for Him to be a free will act,
guided and encouraged by the Holy Spirit and gladly deployed by us.

Our giving should be motivated by Jesus' Amazing Grace!

Hidden deep within us is a vault where we store our most valuable and precious treasures.
Our best giving flows from here.

If I am not giving willingly then there is not much point in giving at all.

Our giving will get out of control when God gives us a bigger vision.

Stewardship is a way of life, not just a way of giving.

Giving is not just what a Christian DOES, it is what a Christian IS!

When we deploy God's material resources we are not giving them up,
we are merely postponing our possession of them until later.

Giving does three things for us — it SOFTENS our heart, it INOCULATES our heart, it REFRESHES our heart.

Giving REFRESHES our heart.

Giving INOCULATES our heart.

Giving SOFTENS our Heart.

When you really love, money is no object, giving is a delight, and no sacrifice is too great.

The Bible unquestionably teaches us that our giving is never a personal loss. It is always a personal gain.

Good stewardship will always produce increased giving,
but increased giving will not necessarily always produce good stewardship.

Do your GIVING while you're LIVING, so you are KNOWING where it is GOING!

How is it that if we own nothing, we can ever think of ourselves as generous in our giving?
Know that "transformational living unleashes transformational giving."

Changed hearts always lead to changed giving.

Total SURRENDER is the first step of stewardship. Without totally giving IN and totally giving UP,
we will continue to live like it is all ours.

In the Bible, a gift to the Lord is called a sacrifice because it is supposed to cost you something.
How much of a sacrifice is your giving?

We will never experience out-of-control giving until we experience under-His-control living.

When believers object to giving to their church for whatever reason,
more times than not they are just looking for an excuse to not give at all!

Our greatest fear in giving is that we might give too much away
and then not have enough for ourselves. IMPOSSIBLE!

The gospel must permeate every aspect of life: time, money, talents, entertainment,
child rearing, bodies, giving... all.

As long as you fail to acknowledge that you are really materially rich,
you will continue giving like you are materially poor.

Wouldn't it be easier for you to give away my money than yours? That is why we need to understand
stewardship. What you are giving is NOT yours.

Have you ever known anyone who became poor by giving too much away to help others?
Then, why are we so afraid we might be the first?

Giving is not a matter of the Wallet. It is a matter of the HEART.
If God gets your HEART. He will get your WALLET too.

Consistent giving is a central part of how we handle God's resources.

Do we trust God do provide the funds for our giving commitments?

To be reliable givers, we need to be consistent in our giving. We need to be sacrificial with our giving.
We need to be prepared for our giving.

There is a difference between avoiding any praise for our giving and avoiding any knowledge of our giving.

Matthew 6:2-4 is not addressing the method of our giving (known/secret).
It is addressing the motive for our giving (self-praised/God-praised).

Our joy in giving should come in faithful obedience to God's direction,
and knowing we have been attentive to his spirit.

Our singular objective should be to use every giving occasion we can as an opportunity to reflect the glory of God.

Giving is not just about having the right attitude, it is also about having specific expectations about what is going to happen when we give.

Our greatest fear in giving is that we might give away too much and end up not having enough for ourselves. Life is not ours for the TAKING. It is ours for the GIVING!

Steward beware: One of the most common symptoms of the disease of affluenza is tightfistedness. The only known antidote to affluenza is GIVING.

In our giving, we need to keep in mind that we don't owe God ANYTHING—we owe Him EVERYTHING!

One of the most common fears of giving is the idea that if I get radical in my giving, what I currently have will be gone.

Giving will get out of control when God's people catch a bigger vision.

Jesus' message about giving is both clear and simple: 1) Give, 2) Give purely, and 3) Give purely to glorify God and motivate others.

Churches built on consumerism struggle to teach giving: As suppliers of religious services, members are consumers, and offerings are but a payment.

No one has ever become poor by giving. Why? Because you CANNOT become poor by giving. It's an eternal impossibility.

Let me suggest that the delight of giving massive sums of money pales in comparison to the joy you will realize by giving yourself away.

To be reliable givers, we need to be 1) consistent, 2) sacrificial, and 3) prepared in our giving.

Giving is not about having the right attitude and specific expectations about what is going to happen when we give.

Extravagant giving 1) exceeds what is expected, 2) exceeds what is affordable, and 3) exceeds what is needed!

The greatest gift you have to give is not your stuff, it is YOURSELF.

When was the last time you made a really sacrificial gift to the Lord? I have never met anyone who has done so who regretted it later.

Don't just give a gift. Be a gift!

Our most important gift to give is not wrapped in brightly colored paper lying under a tree, it is wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

Although we are recipients of almost limitless gifts, our tendency is often to call them our own and claim them for ourselves exclusively.

A talent is a talent until it is used to serve God. At that point, it becomes a gift of ultimate value, multiplying every time we use it.

Want to discover God's purpose for your life? Do what you love and are gifted to do for a Kingdom outcome.

What is the greatest charitable gift you have to give? Yourself!
If God gives the VISION, He will also give the PROVISION! Do you really believe this?

Thank the Lord that you can give instead of depending on others to give to you.

Our need to give is greater than the beggars need to receive.

A Selfless Giver Never Expects Praise.

We need not learn how to give until it HURTS. Rather, we need to learn how to give until it FEELS GOOD!

Would you describe yourself as a motivated giver?

Are you a needy person? Yes, you are! You either need to RECEIVE or you need to GIVE.

Have you ever considered that your need to GIVE is greater than someone else needs to RECEIVE?

Many say it is harder to give money away than it is to make it, maybe because we spend more time working to make it than they do to give it away.

If we really believe God is our provider, why are we so fearful to give away what He has provided.
Do we fear He will no longer provide if we do?

How much extra would God have to give you in order for you to give Him back \$10,000?
Interesting question isn't it?

The New Testament INSPIRES us to give, not REQUIRES us to give!

The one who truly loves gives all and sacrifices nothing. Think about it.

Live frugally so you can give extravagantly.

Why should we be fearful of living a hand to mouth existence, if it is God's hand to our mouth?
God, "Give us this day, our daily bread..."

When you give while you are still here on earth, you may be reducing your earthly net worth, but you are simultaneously increasing your eternal net worth.

This is the attitude of selfless givers. We are unworthy slaves;
we have done only that which we ought to have done.

When we give we need to reflect God's glory and His image to those around us.

The single greatest motivator for encouraging others to give is to hear the stories of those who are doing it.

Blessed are those who can give without remembering and receive without forgetting.

Life would be a whole lot more exciting if we were to learn to not just LIVE dangerously,
but also to GIVE dangerously.

When we give what is entrusted to us, we must expect results and big things to happen!

When we give to God, we are just taking our hands off what already belongs to Him.

Give me one quick minute and I'll share with you how to properly measure the quality of life.

Getters generally don't get happiness: Givers get that.

God's abundant provision hasn't been provided to me to LIVE extravagantly,
it has been provided to me to GIVE extravagantly!

Who's more needy? Person who has, but does not give, or person who needs, but does not receive?
The former!

You know the great old hymn "SOME to Jesus, I surrender, SOME to Him I freely give"
No wait, it's ALL to Him I surrender. Do you sing SOME or ALL?

As in every area of the Christian life, the New Covenant provides us with a Better Way to live
and a Better Way to give.

Life would be a whole lot more exciting if we were to learn to not just LIVE dangerously,
but also to GIVE dangerously.

The Dead Sea is named this because it continually receives and never gives.

It is more blessed to give than it is to receive. In other words, the giver gets back more than he gives.

Those who have a SHORTFALL need to RECEIVE, but equally critical,
those who have a SURPLUS need to GIVE!

How much would you give away If Jesus was coming back in one year?

Real charity doesn't care if it's tax deductible or not.

Jesus said, For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father who sent Me
has given Me a commandment as to what to speak. How about you?

If we say we trust God for our eternity, surely we can trust Him for the short time
we have left here on earth. So why are we afraid to give?

QUOTES FROM OTHERS

Examples are few of men ruined by giving. Men are heroes in spending, cravens in what they give.
Christian Bovee

QUOTES FROM OTHERS

Whether it is my talents, my time, my treasure or the temple of my body, in all of these I am only a steward.
Dwight L. Moody

True joy, happiness and inner peace come from giving of ourselves to others. A happy life is a life for others.
Henri Nouwen

Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.
W.T. Purkiser

Jesus commended the widow not for giving away so much, but for keeping so little.
Ed Owens

The means to laying up treasure in heaven is by giving to the poor.
Servant

Giving to God is no loss; it is putting your substance in the best bank. Giving is true having.
Charles Spurgeon

The essential elements of giving are power and love - activity and affection - and the consciousness of the race testifies that in the high and appropriate exercise of these is a blessedness greater than any other.
Mark Hopkins

Generosity during life is a very different thing from generosity in the hour of death; one proceeds from genuine liberality and benevolence, the other from pride or fear.
Horace Mann

Wise giving is hard. "It is more difficult to give money away intelligently than it is to earn it in the first place."
Andrew Carnegie

Generosity lies less in giving much than in giving at the right moment.
Jean de La Bruyère

For it is in giving that we receive.
Francis of Assisi

Research shows human beings appear to be genetically disposed to be happiest when they are selflessly giving to others.
Lilya Wagner

One must be poor to know the luxury of giving.
George Eliot

The proper aim of giving is to put the recipients in a state where they no longer need our gifts.
C. S. Lewis

Some of us are like the Dead Sea, always taking in but never giving out, because we are not rightly related to the Lord Jesus.
Oswald Chambers

QUOTES FROM OTHERS

When you GIVE under “compulsion” you are giving under the LAW of giving and NOT the GRACE of giving.
Warren

If you give what you do not need, it isn't giving.
Mother Teresa

Giving is an antidote to selfishness—but also a command for Christians.
Take that command seriously and maybe the world will take us seriously.
Catherwood

Churches wanting to discourage their people from incurring debt shouldn't incur debt.
Churches wanting to encourage giving should give.
Randy Alcorn

Givers for God disarm the power of money. They invite God's grace to flow through them.
R. Kent Hughes

Giving is the vital impulse and moral center of capitalism.
George Gilder

Many find giving a burden. These have omitted a preliminary giving.
If one first gives himself to the Lord—all other giving is easy.
Bonnell

Want a giving challenge? “Do something good for someone you like least today.” [cf. Luke 6:35]
St. Anthony of Padua

There can be no continuous revival without “hilarious” giving.
Wherever there is “hilarious” giving there will soon be revival!
O.S. Hawkins

It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.
Mother Teresa

Giving is true loving.
Charles Spurgeon

Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege.
John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs, opening our minds to the unexplained worlds
occupied by the needs of others.
Barbara Bush

Liberality in giving is a good sign of a genuine revival.
Thomas E. Peck

Wealth shines in giving rather than in hoarding: for the miser is hateful, whereas the generous man is applauded.
Boethius

QUOTES FROM OTHERS

There is one act which profanes money by going directly against the law of money,
an act for which money is not made. This act is giving.

Jacques Ellul

Integrity and accountability in management of funds are as absent today as generous, sacrificial giving.

Craig Blomberg

All you have shall some day be given: Therefore give now, that the season of giving may be yours
and not your inheritors.

Kahil Gibran

Given our abundance, the burden of proof should always be on keeping, not giving.

Randy Alcorn

Acts 4-giving was not legislated, it was spontaneous. Not when the LAW compels us
but when the HEART moves us to share are we Christian.

Barkley

We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for giving.

Billy Graham

Giving is a necessity sometimes...more urgent, indeed, than having.

Margaret Lee Runbeck

God has given us two hands, one for receiving and one for giving. We are not cisterns made for hoarding;
we are channels made for sharing.

Billy Graham

There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life—happiness, freedom,
and peace of mind—are always attained by giving them to someone else.

General Peyton C. March

Unless we learn how to humbly tell each other our giving stories, our churches will not learn to give.

Randy Alcorn

What is the chief end of giving? To glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Dennis Bakke

You who believe the promises of the Lord with your whole heart, flee the foul leprosy of avarice and make
holy and wise use of God's gifts.

Leo-Great

A gift is acceptable according to what the giver has, not according to what he has not.

John R.W. Stott

The gift without the giver is rare.

James Russell Lowell

It is up to Christians to show people that the cross calls upon us to discover the Giver through the gift.

Clement

QUOTES FROM OTHERS

Creation has its origins in God's own overflowing goodness. It is purely a gift, "grace" in a sense.
Aquinas

He that gives all, though but little, gives much; because God looks not to the quantity of the gift
but to the quality of the giver.
Francis Quarles

If you find physical pleasure in earthly experiences, use the occasion to praise God for these gifts. Turn your
love not on the pleasures but toward their Maker.
Augustine of Hippo

Put your heart at His feet. It is the gift He loves most.
Elizabeth Ann Seton

The heart of a giver makes the gift dear and precious.
Martin Luther

The excellence of a gift lies in its appropriateness rather than in its value.
Charles Dudley Warner

The worship offering is a pure gift to God. It should therefore be
an exciting and major part of the worship service.
Miller

Our culture values the size of the gift, but God values the size of what we keep.
Ed Owens

Too many ministries focus on raising up gifts rather than givers.
Gary Hoag

How different our standard is from Christ's. We ask, how much does a man give? Christ asks,
how much does he keep?
Andrew Murray

How different our standard is from Christ's. We ask, how much does a man give?
Christ asks, how much does he keep?
Andrew Murray

When we coddle the flesh to foster its desires, it becomes evil and self-indulgence gives rise
to carnal passions and renders the soul diseased.
Gregory Palamas

Never give sparingly because of a possible future need. Only the present moment is ours to serve the Lord.
Tomorrow may never come.
Mueller

If then I cannot give bountifully, yet I will give freely, and what I want in my hand, supply by my heart.
He gives well, that gives willingly.
Arthur Warwick

QUOTES FROM OTHERS

Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others.
St. Augustine

How different our standard is from Christ's. We ask how much a man gives. Christ asks how much he keeps.
Andrew Murray

It's far easier to convert to God the SENSUAL than the COVETOUS.
Give me ten men truly detached and I feel sure I could convert the world.
St. Philip Neri

Even if I give the whole of my worth to Him, He will find a way to give it back to me much more than I gave.
Charles Spurgeon

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give.
I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.
C.S. Lewis

I was young and now old, but not once have I witnessed God's failure to supply my need
when first I had given to further of His work.
W. Carey

Many know they are not Christians because they do not love to give.
To give largely and liberally, not grudgingly, requires a new heart
McCheyne

Our true acquisitions lie only in our charities—we gain only as we give.
William Gilmore Simms

Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours.
Sinclair Lewis

Let him who exhorts others to give, give himself.
Latin Proverb

It is beyond the realm of possibilities that one has the ability to out give God.
Spurgeon

Whatever is given to Christ is immediately touched with immortality.
A.W. Tozer

To give without any reward, or any notice, has a special quality of its own.
Anne Morrow Lindbergh

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.
Jim Elliott

God has given us hands, one to receive with and the other to give with.
We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing.
Graham

QUOTES FROM OTHERS

The most satisfying thing in life is to have been able to give a large part of one's self to others.
Chardin

If anything I have will advance the Kingdom, it shall be given or kept whichever
will best promote the glory of (Christ).
Livingstone

It is true that we may desire much more. But let us use what we have, and God will give us more.
Adoniram Judson

Not to give to those in need what is to you superfluous is akin to fraud.
Augustine

The will of God, to which the law gives expression, is that men should defeat their enemies by loving them.
Dietrich Bonhoffer

To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything He has given us—and He has given us everything.
Thomas Merton, Thoughts in Solitude, 33, 1956

I do not believe we can settle how much we ought to give.
I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.
C.S. Lewis

Give what you have. To someone it may be better than you dare to think.
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing.
Graham

If there be any truer measure of a man than by what he does, it must be by what he gives.
South

We must not only give what we HAVE; we must also give what we ARE.
Mercier

It is the heart that gives. The fingers just let go.
Nigerian proverb

Lord, you have given me so much. I ask for one thing: a grateful heart.
George Herbert

If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble.
Bob Hope

All knowledge is sterile which does not lead to action and end in charity.
Cardinal Mercier

"We are not called by God to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things with extraordinary love."
Jean Vanier

Note that the QUOTES FROM OTHERS are in the process of being verified; as of this posting, they have not been traced back to their original source.

ABOUT E. G. "JAY" LINK

E. G. "Jay" Link has a unique combination of being an ordained minister with a Master Divinity degree in Biblical Theology and a professional Stewardship planning coach who for over 40 years has been working with very affluent Christian families to enable them to optimize their Kingdom impact with all that the Lord has entrusted to them to manage. After retiring from his personal practice, he then served for five years as Director of Taylor University's Stewardship Planning Ministry, which he launched for them. Most recently, Jay founded Transformational Stewardship to serve Christian ministries, colleges, and churches to better minister to their highest capacity families. He has written six books, hundreds of articles and has provided an extensive training curriculum for hundreds of professional financial and legal advisors in how to provide stewardship planning services for their clients.