



Giving Like God Gives

This year's stewardship emphasis — called *What Gift Can I Bring?* — challenges us to consider our giving to God through the ministries of our church.

Giving is one of the ways we respond to God's blessings. We give out of gratitude; but how much should we give? Before you answer, have you ever considered how God gives to us?

How God gives lovingly

- ❖ *God is love*, says I John 4:16, so it follows that God gives lovingly.
- ❖ As the well-known verse reminds us: *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.* (John 3:16)
- ❖ Just as God has given good gifts to us, God desires us to lovingly give good gifts to others. (Matthew 7:9-11)

How God gives freely

- ❖ The gifts of God are gifts indeed, granted freely and without strings attached.
- ❖ Jesus instructed the 12: *Freely you have received, freely give.* (Matthew 10:8). His admonition holds for us as disciples today.

How God gives constantly

- ❖ The most familiar phrase in The Lord's Prayer is a simple verse which says *Give us this day our daily bread* (Matthew 6:11). It's a reminder that God gives to us constantly, an unceasing provider.
- ❖ For the believer, giving isn't just for special occasions; it's a constant priority for one who strives to give like God gives.

How God gives compassionately

- ❖ Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus gave help and healing to the poor, the diseased and the needy.

God is pleased when we do what Jesus did, giving compassionately to those who are less fortunate. An excellent example of this is recorded in Acts 10 in the account of Cornelius, the Roman centurion. The Bible says he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. In a vision from God, an angel told him, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering to God." (Acts 10:4)

***A generous giver will prosper.
– Proverbs 11:24-25***



"I want to make sure that what I am doing with my time, my talents and my finances is like a giant thank-you card to Him."



Sharon Ross

"I have come to realize that everything I have and everything I am is from God, and all He asks is that I return a tithe to him."



Eric Wylie

***Master money by serving God with it.
— Matthew 6:24***

Stewardship: Did You Notice the Difference?

A priest once asked a parishioner to serve as financial chairman of his parish. The man, manager of a grain elevator, agreed on two conditions: No report would be due for a year, and no one would ask any questions during the year.

At the end of the year, he made his report. He had paid off the church debt of \$200,000. He had redecorated the church. He had sent \$1,000 to missions. He had \$5,000 in the bank. "How did you do all this?" asked the priest and the shocked congregation. Quietly he answered, "You people bring your grain to my elevator. As you did business with me, I simply withheld 10 percent and gave it to the church. You never missed it."

James S. Hewett
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