

Basic Disciplines for Believers: #4 – Generous Giving

Why Give? Because God Gives!

#1: **Bible Saturation** (Joshua 1:8) – #2: **Continual Prayer** (Colossians 4:2) – #3: **Willful Submission** (Romans 13:1-2)

Generous Giving: I am responding to God's giving by giving myself and my resources for His use.

2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

Prov 3:9-10 ⁹ Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; ¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Acts 20:35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Ask yourself two questions as you review each item on this list: (1) **What has been my response to this gift?**; and (2) **Does my giving reflect God's giving?**

1. God Gives In the Realm of Creation

Job 33:4 The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Acts 17:25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

1 Tim 6:13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things...

1 Cor 11:15 But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for *her* hair is given to her for a covering.

2. God Gives In the Realm of Provision

Matt 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matt 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

Acts 14:17 Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

3. God Gives In the Realm of Family

Wife – **Prov 18:22** [He who] finds a wife finds a good [thing,] And obtains favor from the LORD. **Prov 19:14** Houses and riches [are] an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife [is] from the LORD.

Children – **Gen 4:1** Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord."

Ruth 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

Psalms 127:3 Behold, children *are* a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb *is* a reward.

4. God Gives In the Realm of Salvation

A. GOD GAVE HIS SON:

- **John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- **2 Cor 9:15** Thanks *be* to God for His indescribable gift!

B. THE SON (JESUS) GAVE HIS LIFE:

- **John 10:11** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.
- **Rom 6:23** For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **1 Tim 2:5-6** For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

C. GOD GAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **2 Cor 1:22** who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

D. GOD GIVES FORGIVENESS AND ETERNAL LIFE

- **1 Cor 3:7** So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.
- **Gal 3:22** But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.
- **Eph 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- **1 John 5:11** And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.
- **Rev 21:6** And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts."

5. God Gives In the Realm of Sanctification (to enable, grow and change us)

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Rom 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

1 Cor 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Heb 2:16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*" (1 Pet 5:5)

2 Peter 1:3 as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

1 John 4:13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. (1 Jn 3:24)

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

6. God Gives In the Realm of Service

Eph 4:7-12 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.*" (Now this, "*He ascended*"--what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, (1 Tim 1:12)

Rom 12:3-8 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; or ministry, *let us use it in our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. (1 Cor 12:1-11; 1 Pet 4:10-11)

2 Cor 5:18 Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

7. God Gives In the Realm of Satisfaction

Eccl 5:18 Here is what I have seen: *It is* good and fitting *for one* to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for *it is* his heritage. (8:15)

Eccl 9:9 Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that [is] your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun.

2 Thes 3:16 Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord *be* with you all.

1 Tim 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

8. God Gives In the Realm of Eternity

John 14:2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if [it were] not [so,] I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (Rev 22:5)

Eph 2:7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

2 Tim 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

James 1:12 Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Rev 22:12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

How are you responding to each gift which God has given? Are you godly (god-like) in your giving?