



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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## The Privilege of Giving: A Biblical Perspective

In the Bible, giving is portrayed not just as a duty, but as a profound privilege, a joy-filled opportunity to reflect God's heart and participate in His work on earth. From the Old Testament's laws on offerings to the New Testament's teachings of sacrificial love, the Bible provides numerous insights into why giving is an honor and how it shapes us as believers. This article explores the privilege of giving through the lens of biblical principles, highlighting the heart behind generosity and the rewards it brings.

### 1. Giving Reflects God's Character

The Bible presents God as the ultimate Giver. In John 3:16, we read that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son," highlighting that God's love is expressed through sacrificial giving. When we give, we mirror this character of God, embodying His love and generosity toward others. As image-bearers of God (Genesis 1:27), we are called to reflect His nature, and giving allows us to act in alignment with His heart.

### 2. Giving is an Expression of Faith and Trust

In Malachi 3:10, God invites His people to "bring the whole tithe into the storehouse" and then challenges them to "test Him" in this, promising that He will open the floodgates of heaven to bless them. Giving requires faith that God will meet our needs, even when it feels like we are parting with resources we might

want to keep. This trust pleases God, who sees our willingness to depend on Him rather than our possessions (Hebrews 11:6).

### 3. Giving as a Form of Worship

Giving in the Bible is frequently connected to worship. In the Old Testament, offerings and sacrifices were an essential part of worship, symbolizing devotion to God. Today, giving remains a way to worship by surrendering what we have to God's purposes. Paul highlights this when he says, "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship" (Romans 12:1). When we give of our time, resources, and talents, we are offering our lives in service to God.

### 4. Giving Benefits the Giver

The Bible often highlights that giving enriches the giver as much as the recipient. Jesus taught, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). While giving involves a transfer of resources, it often results in a

deeper blessing—joy, satisfaction, and a sense of fulfillment that cannot be matched by material gain.

### 5. Giving Builds Community and Demonstrates Love

The early church modeled the power of giving in Acts 2:44-45, where believers shared all, they had, ensuring that no one was in need. This selfless sharing created a strong sense of community and testified to the world about the love of Christ. When we give, we contribute to building a loving, supportive community that reflects God's Kingdom.

### 6. Giving Has Eternal Rewards

The Bible encourages believers to store up treasures in heaven rather than on earth (Matthew 6:19-20). When we give to others, particularly to those in need or to support God's work, we are investing in eternal things. Jesus assures that our acts of kindness and generosity, even giving "a cup of water" to someone, will be rewarded (Mark 9:41).

In Matthew 25:40, Jesus says, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." This underscores the privilege of giving as an eternal investment. When we give, we are participating in God's work and aligning our hearts with His purposes, which has lasting significance beyond this life.

The privilege of giving, according to the Bible, is profound. It reflects God's character, requires trust, serves as worship, blesses the giver, builds

community, and carries eternal rewards. When we see giving through this lens, it moves from obligation to opportunity, a chance to grow closer to God, demonstrate our faith, and be a blessing to others.

As we strive to live generous lives, may we remember that we are blessed to be a blessing. Each gift we give, no matter how small, is a chance to honor God, support others, and make a lasting impact that reaches beyond ourselves.



"The offering from the heart that loves, God delights to honor, giving it highest efficiency in service for Him. If we have given our hearts to Jesus, we shall bring our gifts to Him."

E. G. White. *Counsels on Stewardship*. p. 198.

