# THE BIBLICAL ANATOMY OF GIVING

**Unveiling The Dynamics of Giving**

*by*

*Bezalel Dickson Kyeremeh*

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**Contents**

[THE BIBLICAL ANATOMY OF GIVING 1](#_Toc170125690)

[DEDICATION 1](#_Toc170125691)

[ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 2](#_Toc170125692)

[FORWARD BY APOSTLE MIRACLE JOSEPH AMANKWAH 3](#_Toc170125693)

[FORWARD BY REVEREND ADAMU HARUNA 5](#_Toc170125694)

[Chapter 1 AN ALARM CALL TO ALL CHRISTIANS 12](#_Toc170125695)

[Chapter 2 17](#_Toc170125696)

[BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF GIVING 17](#_Toc170125697)

[Chapter 3 29](#_Toc170125698)

[SOME PRINCIPLES OF GIVING 29](#_Toc170125699)

[Chapter 4 37](#_Toc170125700)

[TYPES OF GIVERS 37](#_Toc170125701)

[Chapter 5 GIVING YOURSELF TO GOD 56](#_Toc170125702)

[Chapter 6 GIVING TO THE POOR AND NEEDY 70](#_Toc170125703)

[Chapter 7 GIVING TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF GOD 86](#_Toc170125704)

[Chapter 8 GIVING OF OFFERINGS 103](#_Toc170125705)

[Chapter 9 GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS 112](#_Toc170125706)

[Chapter 10 GIVING OF YOUR TIME TO GOD 117](#_Toc170125707)

[Chapter 11 UTILIZING YOUR GIFTS, TALENTS, AND SKILLS AS AN ACT OF GIVING TO PROFIT GOD’S KINGDOM AND OTHERS 139](#_Toc170125708)

[Chapter 12 THE RIGHT AND EFFECTIVE WAYS OF GIVING 143](#_Toc170125709)

[EMBRACE JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR 154](#_Toc170125710)

[ABOUT THE BOOK 156](#_Toc170125711)

[ABOUT THE AUTHOR 158](#_Toc170125712)

[AUTHOR’S ADDRESS AND CONTACT 160](#_Toc170125713)

#

# DEDICATION

With heartfelt appreciation, I dedicate this book to my father in the Lord, Apostle Dr. Stephen Opoku, the Founder and the General Overseer of Eternal Home Ministries, Kumasi, Ghana.

Thank you very much for your mentorship and guidance in my early stage of ministry. God richly bless you for all your investments in my life.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Great gratitude goes to the Lord Almighty for His grace, insight, and enablement in making this book a reality.

I also acknowledge all my brothers and sisters in Christ and all my friends who helped me to make this vision a reality.

God richly bless you all!

# FORWARD BY APOSTLE MIRACLE JOSEPH AMANKWAH

It has been my pleasure to know the author, Apostle Bezalel Dickson Kyeremeh, since 2017 in a friendship that has gone from mere acquaintance to partnership in Ministry. Since he became a lecturer at "Transformation Through The Truth Bible College, based in Kumasi, Ghana, West Africa, in 2021, I have watched him grow in Christ Jesus to the place where his heart burns with the desire to go deeper and deeper in the knowledge of the Lord. I have watched his disciples become well-established in the Lord. I appreciate the contribution of his Christian family that brought him to live in the United States of America, Illinois, to pursue two master’s degrees, and to establish a ministry called Overcomers Revival Global Ministries.

'The Biblical Anatomy of Giving' is a profound exploration of the concept of giving as described in the Bible. This book is a treasure trove of insights, providing a comprehensive understanding of the significance of giving and its implications for Christian living. The author, Bezalel Dickson Kyeremeh, masterfully weaves biblical stories, theological insights, and practical wisdom to explain the fundamental principles of generosity and their relevance in our lives today.

The book delves into the heart of our faith, discussing God's sacrificial gift of His son, Jesus Christ, and the acts of giving demonstrated by biblical figures like Abraham, the church in Macedonia, the disciples, and others. These stories are historical accounts and examples of the power of giving, which can shape our lives and our relationship with God.

**THE REGISTRAR / PRINCIPAL,**

**TRANSFORMATION THROUGH THE TRUTH BIBLE COLLEGE,**

**USA / GHANA / NIGERIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.**

# FORWARD BY REVEREND ADAMU HARUNA

"The Biblical Anatomy of Giving" by Bezalel Dickson Kyeremeh has an outstanding teaching on giving. The book provides practical and demonstrative principles on giving that make it readable and explainable.

It unveils the secrets and deep insights into practical giving and the blessings entitled to them. The author uses excellent examples of people who practiced the principles of giving from the scriptures. He also elaborates on various forms of giving and how we can apply them in our daily lifestyles or activities.

“The Biblical Anatomy of Giving” reveals the universal principles and rules governing giving and how they significantly impact our daily living and relationship with our Lord. It also provides explicit dimensions and the correct meanings of giving.

My dear readers, I highly recommend this book as one of the most suitable books on giving.

**Adamu Haruna, Lecturer,**

**Believers End-Time Harvest (BETH) Bible College, Kumasi, Ghana.**

The Bible contains numerous examples of individuals who demonstrated generosity and received divine blessings. From God's gift of His son, Jesus Christ, to Abraham's offering of Isaac and the widow of Zarephath's provision for Elijah, these stories illustrate the strong connection between giving and divine favor. They serve as timeless reminders that following biblical principles, especially the practice of giving, is essential for experiencing God's blessings and fulfilling His purposes.

As we journey through the pages of "The Biblical Anatomy of Giving" by Bezalel Dickson Kyeremeh, the book invites us to explore the true meaning of giving as depicted in Scripture. Through carefully examining biblical examples and principles, Dickson encourages us to assess our dedication to generosity and its ability to transform our lives and communities.

May this book serve as a guiding light, inspiring readers to embrace a spirit of generosity and trust in God's provision. As we excel in various aspects of our faith, let us also excel in the gracious act of giving, knowing that we reap bountiful harvests of blessings through our willingness to sow seeds of generosity.

**Book Writing Crew,**

**Texas, USA.**

It is with great pleasure and honor that I write to recommend "The Biblical Anatomy of Giving" by my dear friend, Bezalel Dickson Kyeremeh. I have known Bezalel since our university days when we shared a profound faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Over the years, Bezalel has always had a unique ability to delve into the depths of biblical principles and bring forth practical and transformative insights.

In "The Biblical Anatomy of Giving," he explores the often overlooked yet critically important principle of giving as outlined in the Bible. This book is a timely reminder of the power and impact that true generosity can have on the recipients and the givers.

Through meticulously researched scripture and personal reflections, Bezalel illustrates the manifold ways in which giving is a cornerstone of Christian living. He draws from both Old and New Testament examples, shedding light on how the act of giving aligns us with God's purpose and unlocks His blessings. This book is not merely a call to charity but to a lifestyle of generosity that reflects God's love and grace.

As someone who has witnessed Bezalel's unwavering faith and dedication firsthand, I can attest to the authenticity and passion with which he approaches this subject. His insights are theoretical and lived experiences that resonate with anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of God's word.

I wholeheartedly endorse "The Biblical Anatomy of Giving" and recommend it to all readers eager to enrich their spiritual journey and embrace the transformative power of giving. May this book inspire you to give wholeheartedly and experience the abundant blessings of aligning your life with God's principles.

Sincerely,

**George Mendel Brown,
Christian Author, Writer, and Blogger.**

# Chapter 1AN ALARM CALL TO ALL CHRISTIANS

Muslims wield significant influence in contemporary society due to their religious practices, particularly Zakat (almsgiving). For instance, when constructing mosques, they often do so seamlessly, without grappling with fundraising, thereby contributing to the substantial expansion of Islam. By steadfastly adhering to the principles of Zakat, Muslims have continued to thrive globally. They strategically utilize the principle of Zakat to engage communities and draw them towards their faith, making Islam one of the world's fastest-growing religions.

Transitioning to the focal point of this book, pertinent questions arise: How frequently do Christians contribute to the advancement of Christianity? To what degree do we genuinely extend help to those in need? Thus, we must learn the art of giving to support others and the mission of Christ. Until Christians emulate the generosity seen in Muslim and other religious communities, our ability to prosper and influence the world will be limited.

We need to collectively leverage our resources to draw unbelievers to our faith to avoid losing them to other religions. Evangelism transcends verbal proclamation alone; it also entails reaching out to people through tangible aid such as financial support, shelter, and resources, addressing their immediate needs to effectively share the gospel.

In a Ghanaian university, Christian leaders tried constructing a cathedral to serve as a unifying place of worship for the Christian community on campus. However, despite their efforts, the project has languished for over a decade, plagued by a lack of financial support from most Christians within the university.

Conversely, when the Muslim leaders decided to construct a mosque, their project was efficiently completed in less than two years. This stark contrast highlights a fundamental understanding among the Muslim community of the importance of collective giving and support for religious initiatives. Regrettably, the Christian cathedral project, initiated over ten years ago, remains unfinished, leaving the Christian community without a dedicated place for worship.

This discrepancy between the two religious groups underscores a poignant truth: God does not show favoritism (Romans 2:11), and the principle of giving is a universal tenet of faith (Luke 6:38). It is essential to recognize that salvation alone does not guarantee prosperity; instead, adherence to biblical principles, such as giving, is integral to experiencing God's blessings.

Regardless of one's spiritual fervor or professed beliefs, neglecting the principle of giving can lead to financial hardship. Poverty does not discriminate based on religious affiliation but respects those who willingly embrace the giving formula outlined in the Bible.

In summary, the disparity in the completion of religious infrastructure within the university serves as a reminder of the importance of generosity and communal support in fulfilling the aspirations of faith communities. Christians must reflect on their commitment to biblical principles, including the practice of giving, to ensure not only spiritual enrichment but also material prosperity.

*“Since you excel in so many ways– your faith, gifted speakers, knowledge, enthusiasm, and love from us–I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving*.*”*  **(2 Corinthians 8:7, NLT)**

Paul encourages giving, emphasizing its ability to unlock God's blessings. In his message to the Corinthians, he acknowledges their proficiency in various aspects, such as faith, speech, knowledge, earnestness, and love. However, he urges them to extend their excellence to giving. This suggests that despite their strengths in faith, hope, love, and knowledge, they should also prioritize excelling in generosity.

# Chapter 2

# BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF GIVING

The Bible recounts the stories of many individuals who demonstrated their generosity towards God and others. This tradition of giving spans generations, as documented in the Old and New Testaments. Throughout these scriptures, we encounter numerous examples of patriarchs and matriarchs actively practicing the act of giving. What's particularly intriguing is that the Bible presents these instances and provides insight into the outcomes. Indeed, the biblical narrative illustrates that God often rewarded those who gave. This pattern offers us hope and assurance, grounded in God's unchanging and immutable nature (Hebrews 13:8), that our acts of giving to Him will likewise be met with divine blessings. Let's delve into some of these biblical figures who exemplified generosity and examine the blessings they received.

**Example 1**

**God Gave Jesus Christ and Now Has Many Sons**

*“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.”* **(John 3:16, NKJV)**

*“In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.”* **(Hebrews 2:10, NIV)**

God understood that to redeem the entire world and its people, he needed to give his only begotten son, Jesus Christ. This act was rooted in comprehending the dynamics of giving and receiving. Through Jesus, God offered a ransom sacrifice to bring forth many sons.

In John 1:12, the Bible elucidates that those who believed in Jesus and embraced his name were granted the privilege to become sons of God. Jesus's departure from earthly existence was pivotal, as it positioned him as a resurrection seed destined to increase and yield abundant fruit.

Originally, God had one son—Jesus Christ. Yet, through the act of giving, He gave Him to the world that those who believed in Jesus and embraced His name were granted the privilege to become sons of God. Jesus's departure from earthly existence was crucial, positioning humanity and transforming believers into his spiritual offspring. This divine exchange represents a transaction between God and humanity. He had to sow His only seed; the seed germinated, grew, and brought forth many fruits: ***the church***.

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat falls into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”* **(John 12:24, KJV)**

You can't get many fruits until you give out your only seed through sowing. God gave one son and had many sons. You can give out your little time, money, car, house, energy, etc, and expect great returns.

**Example 2**

**Abraham Gave Isaac and Became the Father of All Nations**

God desired to bless Abraham and fulfill His promise to make him the father of many nations, as Genesis 12:2–3 recounted. However, before this divine plan could unfold, Abraham faced a critical test: he was called to offer his beloved son, Isaac, in an act of faith. This sacrificial giving symbolized the spiritual covenant between him and God, affirming and sealing God's promise to Abraham.

Despite Isaac fulfilling God's promise of being the covenant seed, Abraham demonstrated unwavering obedience by willingly offering Isaac as instructed by God. His obedience demonstrated his trust in God's providence and commitment to fulfilling the divine purpose.

Following Abraham's faithful obedience, God spoke to him, reaffirming His covenant and blessing. This exchange is chronicled in Genesis 22:16-18, where God confirms His commitment to bless Abraham and his descendants.

Abraham's obedience and trust in God's plan validated the covenant and exemplified the importance of faith and devotion. It is a timeless testament to the connection between humanity and the divine.

 *“And said, ‘’I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I**will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”* **(Genesis 22: 16 – 18, NIV)**

This implies that had Abraham not chosen to offer Isaac as a sacrifice to God, God might not have blessed and multiplied his descendants. Abraham's willingness to make this sacrifice prompted God to establish him as the progenitor of many nations. While God had already promised to make Abraham the father of many nations, to bless him, and to multiply his descendants, his readiness to offer Isaac affirmed the promise and led to its fulfillment.

Just as Abraham experienced God’s blessing by offering Isaac, we too can expect similar outcomes if we embrace the practice of giving, for we are the descendants of Abraham. It is through the act of giving, even if it seems insignificant, that we receive abundantly in return.

 **Example 3**

**The Widow of Zarephath Gave Her Last Flour and Oil to Elijah, And She Had a Continuous and Abundant Food Supply**

*“Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink.” And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” So she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. “For thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.’ ” So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah”* **(1 Kings 17:8–16, NKJV)**

This biblical example illustrates the principle of giving that has deeply resonated with me. It shows that giving can yield manifold blessings even in dreadful circumstances, where one may possess only a meager amount.

This narrative unfolds with a widow in the famine-stricken land of Samaria, possessing only a handful of flour and a bit of oil, barely enough to prepare a final meal for herself and her son before starvation. In this desperate situation, the prophet Elijah instructs her to prioritize his needs over her, asking her to prepare a meal for him before attending to herself and her son. Remarkably, despite her scarcity, she obeys. Miraculously, the provisions never deplete; the flour jar and the oil jug remain full, sustaining her and her household throughout the famine.

This story encapsulates the divine principle of generosity — the notion that God calls us to give, even when it seems impractical or counterintuitive. It challenges us to relinquish what we hold onto tightly, trusting God's promise of abundance. Just as the widow of Zarephath experienced the multiplication of her inadequate resources through her obedience, so too are we called to offer up what we possess, regardless of its perceived insignificance.

At times, we may find ourselves clinging to our last penny or whatever little we have, hesitant to part with it even at the prompting of God. Yet, it is precisely in these moments of surrender that the greatest blessings unfold. The act of giving, however small, opens the floodgates of divine provision, transforming scarcity into abundance.

Therefore, let us heed the lesson of the widow of Zarephath, embracing a spirit of generosity and trust in God's provision. May we never withhold what is asked of us, knowing that it is in the release of the little that God's miraculous multiplication occurs.

 **Example 4**

**The Church of Macedonia Gave Themselves and Their Materials to God, and Through That, They Were Blessed Abundantly**

*“We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favour of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.’’* **(2 Corinthians 8:1-5, ESV)**

The church in Macedonia faced extreme poverty and endured significant afflictions and trials. Despite these challenges, they genuinely desired to participate in relief efforts. They eagerly implored the Apostles for the opportunity to contribute to God's work. This remarkable willingness to give, even amidst their hardships, is truly inspiring.

The unique characteristic of the Macedonians is their commitment to give to God sacrificially. They initially devoted themselves to God as a living sacrifice and later generously supported Paul's ministry in Macedonia with material donations.

Despite their impoverished circumstances, their steadfast determination to give deeply impressed Paul. God blessed them abundantly through their unbelievable generosity, lifting them from the depths of poverty.

# Chapter 3

# SOME PRINCIPLES OF GIVING

There are some laws and principles regarding giving that we must not overlook as children of God. Becoming familiar with these principles will help us understand the essence of giving and uncover hidden truths about it.

1. **The Seedtime and Harvest Covenant (The Law of Sowing and Reaping)**

*“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.”* **(Genesis 8:22, NKJV)**

After the flood, God established a covenant with Noah, promising not to destroy the earth with water again. Additionally, He declared that as long as the earth endures, the cycle of seedtime and harvest will persist. This covenant signifies a shift in how God interacts with humanity, highlighting the importance of our actions—the seeds we sow—in shaping our relationship with Him.

Essentially, this covenant underscores the principle that our deeds determine the nature of God's response to us. Sowing good deeds yields positive rewards from God while sowing bad deeds leads to negative consequences. This principle extends beyond actions to encompass giving as well. Reflects on Galatians 6:7-10.

*“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”* **(Galatians 6:7–10, NKJV)**

**You Can’t Sow Orange Seeds and Accidentally Reap Mango Fruits**

In agriculture, you can't plant an orange seed and expect mangoes to grow. Similarly, one can't expect to reap bountifully if they sow grudgingly. When you give, think of it as sowing seeds in the soil. We will reap abundant harvests if we generously and willingly sow good seeds through giving.

On the contrary, if we give sparingly and reluctantly, we will reap meager rewards. This principle is what I call the Seedtime and Harvest Covenant, reflecting God's plan for abundance for His children. Therefore, if we desire wealth in this life, we must be generous in our giving.

1. **What You Withhold, You Lose, But What You Give, You Preserve**

*“Jesus said “whosoever will* ***preserve his life from Him will lose*** *it, but whosoever* ***loses his for His sake will preserve and save it****.”* **(Mark 8:35, NKJV)**

In the kingdom of God, a principle governs it: to increase and safeguard your possessions, you must be willing to share them or some with others for the advancement of the kingdom and the betterment of humanity. This principle, which I refer to as the Principle of Increase and Multiplicity, illustrates that what you withhold, you ultimately lose; on the other hand, what you give, you either gain or preserve.

We cannot expect to receive a more significant portion in return until we understand the importance of letting go of what we own. For example, if you withhold your little finances from God, He, in turn, will withhold more incredible wealth from you. Likewise, if you reserve your limited time from serving God, He will withhold His attention and time from you. This principle applies universally, surpassing individual status or circumstance.

We must shed our apprehensions about releasing what little we possess, understanding that abundance flows through this act. It's essential to remember that when we willingly offer what we have, no matter how small, God blesses it, enriching us in return. Often, there's a fear that giving away our limited resources will leave us with nothing, yielding minimal returns. However, the poor widow's story in Luke 21:1–4 reminds us otherwise.

Despite her poverty, she gave all she had to live on, earning Jesus' highest commendation as the greatest giver. This narrative illustrates that true generosity isn't measured by the amount given but by the spirit in which it's offered. In line with this, Dr. Mike Murdock, one of the most outstanding teachers in America, once said, *“When what you hold in your hand is not enough to be a harvest, make it a seed.”* If we do this, God will let go of what is in His hand for us, making us prosperous in all we do.

Thus, if you want to be extremely prosperous and thriving in the kingdom of God, learn to release the little that you have wholeheartedly and expect a bumper harvest from our faithful and reliable God.

1. **The Law of Scattering**

*“There is one who* ***scatters yet increases more****; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty*.*”* **(Proverbs 11:24, NKJV)**

It is through our acts of generosity that God bestows abundant blessings upon us. In this context, generosity encompasses all forms of giving and sacrifices made for God and our fellow human beings.

One must embrace this scattering principle to avoid lacking blessings and potentially enduring various forms of hardship. One invites God's reciprocal benevolence by extending a helping hand to those in need.

By engaging in acts of scattering, one opens themselves to a myriad of favors and assistance, which may even extend to future generations. Therefore, it is imperative to begin sharing resources and witness how God multiplies them, showering blessings manifold. This spiritual principle is a formula for abundant blessings, which God expects us to adhere to faithfully.

1. **Giving Goes Beyond Money and Other Material Things**

When the concept of giving is discussed, it's often associated with monetary donations or tangible items. However, it's crucial to emphasize that the act of giving extends far beyond material possessions. In addition to contributing financially, one can give of their time, themselves, their children (as exemplified by Hannah in the Bible), their energy, skills, and talents to uplift humanity and advance God’s Kingdom. Thus, it's crucial to view giving through a multidimensional lens and sow seeds of generosity comprehensively to harvest holistic rewards.

# Chapter 4

# TYPES OF GIVERS

The scriptures provide insights into various types of givers, each with distinct qualities that impact our lives differently. While some exemplify virtues worth emulating, others can inadvertently hinder our progress. Thus, we must discern between these different kinds of givers, as the Bible depicts. Let us, therefore, examine some types of givers in the Bible.

 **1. The Willing (Cheerful) Givers**

Cheerful givers offer their contributions willingly and joyfully, without coercion. They don't give begrudgingly; instead, they are always ready to extend a helping hand without persuasion.

These individuals are proactive in their generosity, choosing to give freely and intentionally rather than waiting for prompts from others. Even if encouraged to give, their generosity remains genuine and unforced.

*“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver*.*”***(2 Corinthians 9:7, KJV)**

God detests giving that is done grudgingly or out of necessity. Sometimes, it is better not to give than to give out of grudgingly or necessity.

**Examples of Willing (Cheerful) Givers**

 **1. *Zacchaeus willingly and cheerfully gave half of his properties to the poor.* (Luke 19:8)**

In Luke 19:1-10, the narrative unfolds with Zacchaeus, a man whose encounter with Jesus Christ prompts a transformation. Zacchaeus, a tax collector known for his wealth amassed through questionable means, unexpectedly seeks out Jesus, climbing a sycamore-fig tree to catch a glimpse of Him passing by. This action speaks volumes about Zacchaeus's curiosity and perhaps a deeper longing.

Upon meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus experiences a significant moment of conviction and remorse. Jesus, acknowledging Zacchaeus amidst the crowd, invites Himself to dine at Zacchaeus's home, much to the surprise and murmuring of the onlookers. This acceptance and inclusion from Jesus likely stir within Zacchaeus a mixture of astonishment and anticipation.

During the meal, Zacchaeus is profoundly moved. In response to the transformative encounter with Jesus, Zacchaeus announces his decision to redistribute his wealth. He pledges to give half of his possessions to the poor and promises to repay anyone he has wronged fourfold through his tax-collecting practices. This declaration of restitution and generosity demonstrates a radical shift in Zacchaeus's priorities and values.

The significance of Zacchaeus's actions extends beyond mere philanthropy. It reflects a deep-seated change within him—a conversion of heart and a reorientation of his life towards justice and compassion. Zacchaeus's willingness to part with his wealth signifies a detachment from material possessions and a newfound commitment to righteousness.

In essence, the encounter between Zacchaeus and Jesus serves as a powerful illustration of the transformative power of God’s grace and mercy. It shows the impact of encountering Jesus on an individual's life, leading to repentance, restoration, and a renewed sense of purpose. Zacchaeus's story reminds us of the boundless mercy and transformative potential of the gospel message.

*“And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.”* **(Luke 19:8, ESV)**

Zacchaeus demonstrated a genuine spirit of generosity, freely giving from his heart without any external prompting. His example teaches us the importance of cultivating a willingness to give joyfully and willingly. We must not succumb to pressure or coercion when it comes to giving. God does not reward those who give grudgingly; His favor rests upon those who give cheerfully and willingly, motivated by love and generosity.

 **2. *Abraham willingly gave Isaac.* (Genesis 22:1-19)**

The Bible recounts the story of Abraham, who obediently prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice to God. Despite the gravity of the command, Abraham's faith remained unwavering. While he could have resisted or expressed discontent, he chose instead to comply willingly.

Isaac held immense significance to Abraham as the promised bearer of blessings, yet Abraham displayed incredible obedience, prepared to surrender him to fulfill God's will. Consequently, God acknowledged Abraham's faith and obedience, finding favor in his actions.

 **3. *The Macedonians cheerfully and willingly gave themselves to God.* (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)**

In examining the Macedonia church's actions, we find their dedication to God and how they expressed it. Despite facing significant crises, trials, and afflictions, they willingly offered themselves to God, astonishing even Apostle Paul.

 Paul anticipated their struggles might lead them to give begrudgingly or not at all. Yet, to his surprise, they eagerly sought the opportunity to contribute to God's work. Their giving was marked by joy and enthusiasm, devoid of complaints (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

Sometimes, individuals struggle to give cheerfully or willingly due to their hardships. However, it's essential to recognize that God surpasses any challenge we may face. No difficulty is insurmountable if we trust and have confidence in the Lord. The Macedonians determined that whether there was a problem or not, they would cheerfully give to God.

 **2. The Big-Little Givers**

These individuals offer small sacrifices, yet their significance in the eyes of God is pleasing. This is usually because of their positive attitudes or noble intentions accompanying their offerings. An exemplary case is the widow in Luke 21:1-4 who contributed two mites and was acclaimed as the most generous giver present. While the quantity of our offerings matters to God, our manner and motive of giving hold greater importance. Our actions, the spirit in which we give, and the reasons behind our offerings distinguish one giver from another. Although the quantity of our donations is significant, we must strike a balance among three key aspects: what, how, and why we give.

**Example of The Big-Little Givers**

In illustrating the concept of the Big-Little Giver, consider a scenario where God is more pleased with an individual who offers $10 than another who donates $10,000. While the latter amount is greater numerically, the context is crucial. The individual with ample resources giving $10,000 might be perceived as less commendable because they might possess substantial wealth and could contribute more. Furthermore, their donation might be motivated by a desire to flaunt their generosity rather than genuine altruism.

Alternatively, God might regard the person offering $10 more favorably. Despite the modest sum, this individual may have given all they could afford, demonstrating a sincere commitment to supporting God's work. Their intentions might be pure, driven by a genuine desire to promote a cause rather than seeking validation or recognition from others.

 **3. The Little-Big Givers**

This approach to giving starkly contrasts the spirit of generous, sincere giving. Those who engage in this form of giving offer substantial quantities of certain things, yet in the eyes of God, these contributions are diminished due to how they are given or the intentions behind the act. Despite having plenty, they restrict themselves and offer far less than they can give. Such giving does not find favor with God. Let us remember that *“…everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required…”* **(Luke 12:48, NKJV)**

**Example of The Little-Big Givers**

In Mark 12:42-44, we witness an example of giving exemplified by the widow who contributed two small coins. Seeing the heart's true motivations, Jesus noted that while many others made offerings, the widow gave all she had. Despite her meager means, she gave everything, contrasting sharply with those who, despite their abundance, contributed only a fraction.

This narrative underscores a truth: God evaluates our offerings not only by their absolute value but also by the sincerity and motivation behind them. Though small in material terms, the widow's gift carried immeasurable weight because it represented her entire livelihood. In essence, her offering amounted to 100% of what she possessed, while others, despite their greater wealth, offered only a fraction. Thus, the widow's selfless giving serves as a timeless reminder that true generosity is not measured by the size of the gift but by the depth of the sacrifice.

1. The Reward-Seeking Givers

These individuals are motivated by the desire to be recognized by others. Often, they only give when there's an audience present, seeking validation from fellow humans rather than sincerely aiming to honor God. While there's nothing inherently wrong with giving publicly, it becomes misguided when the intention is solely to gain human approval rather than to glorify God. Those who engage in this form of giving may receive accolades from people but miss out on divine rewards. This behavior explains why many find themselves giving without experiencing the blessings promised by God. Their focus is on seeking the admiration of others, neglecting the deeper purpose of giving in alignment with God's will.

**Jesus Taught us The Principle of Giving Secretly.**

 *“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.’’* **(Mathew 6:1-4, NKJV)**

Jesus Christ, our perfect role model, taught the disciples the right way of giving alms. He said that we must not give with the intention of causing men to see what we give, but we must give secretly so that the glory goes to God and not us.

**Most of The Leaders in the Synagogue Practiced Reward-Seeking Giving**

*“Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.’’* **(Mathew 6:2, NKJV)**

The Pharisees, scribes, Sadducees, and other leaders were known for their public displays of giving alms. They would often choose prominent locations like streets, public squares, and synagogues to make their donations. They aimed to ensure everyone could witness their generosity, believing it would demonstrate their righteousness to God. However, Jesus saw through their intentions and condemned their actions. He pointed out that by seeking recognition from others, they had already received their reward and would gain nothing from God.

1. The Stingy Givers

Some individuals resist giving, withholding their generosity to such an extent that they struggle to support God’s work or others. And when they do give, it's often with reluctance, providing something less substantial or of inferior quality, which the recipient may not truly appreciate. This mindset perceives giving as a significant loss of resources, leading them to withhold their contributions. Even those with ample resources find it challenging to part with even a tiny portion.

**Example of Stingy Giver**

**Cain Was a Stingy Giver:**

The Bible recounts a tale of two brothers, Cain and Abel, who presented offerings to God. According to Genesis 4:3-5, God favored Abel's offering over Cain's. The Book of Hebrews further elaborates on this, stating in Hebrews 11:4 that Cain's offering was rejected because it lacked quality (not worthy), as he offered produce from his farm, which was deemed inferior. Thus, Cain’s sacrifice was less excellent than that of Abel, making his sacrifice less pleasing to God than that of Abel. It depicts stinginess in giving.

*“By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which it was testified of him that he was righteous (upright, in right standing with God), and God testified by accepting his gifts. And though he died, yet through [this act of] faith he still speaks.”* **(Hebrews 11:4, AMP)**

In contrast, Abel's offering consisted of a well-fed, healthy animal. His generosity was evident, and thus, his sacrifice found favor in the sight of God.

1. Generous Givers

*“The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.”* **(Proverbs 11:25, NKJV)**

A proper understanding of the principles of giving is exemplified by individuals who wholeheartedly give to aid others and further the kingdom of God. Stingy givers may either refrain from giving altogether or offer less substantial contributions. In contrast, generous givers consistently offer items of significant value, ensuring they are both appreciated and accepted by the recipients.

**Examples of Generous Givers**

 **1. *God Generously Gave Jesus Christ to Humanity.***

Approximately two thousand years ago, God gave humanity the gift of Jesus Christ, who willingly offered Himself as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. This act of divine generosity resulted in a successful and beneficial sacrifice. Through this sacrificial offering, humanity attained divine emancipation and liberation from sin.

 **2. *Abel Gave Generously to God.***

In the discussion on stingy givers, it's been previously noted that Cain's offerings were lacking in quality and in the spirit of generosity. This is illuminated in Hebrews 11:4. Cain's reluctance to give generously was evidenced by the inferior quality of his sacrifice and his lack of wholehearted dedication to serving God. In contrast, his younger brother Abel demonstrated generosity by presenting God with an excellent offering and willingly dedicating himself to God's service.

1. The Undirected (Uninstructed) Givers

These individuals are known as spontaneous givers, offering without specific guidance from God. While they are not inherently selfish or miserly, nor are they driven by a desire for recognition or influence, their giving lacks divine direction. Consequently, their acts of generosity may not align with God's will. The Bible teaches that those led by the Spirit are deemed children of God (Romans 8:14), demonstrating the importance of divine guidance in giving. Offering without spiritual guidance can lead to unforeseen consequences such as illness, financial hardship, or spiritual turmoil.

It's crucial to discern the prompting of the Spirit when giving, as anything not directed by God lacks spiritual endorsement. However, if uncertain about where to give, a safe choice is to contribute to the work of God in His house. Donations made within the realm of God's work are inherently infused with His Spirit and are therefore aligned with His will.

*“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith).”***(Gal 6:10, NKJV)**

I often encounter individuals expressing that they were thriving, their businesses flourishing, until they decided to give generously, and suddenly, everything seemed to collapse. This usually arises when our giving lacks purpose or direction. The underlying issue is that God expects our generosity to be channeled toward specific places and individuals according to His will. By aligning our giving with His guidance, we allow His divine plan to supersede our desires. However, giving without seeking His consent suggests that our actions stem solely from our will rather than His greater purpose.

**King Saul Sacrificed to God Without Being Directed by Him, and because of That, He Lost His Kingship**

***“****He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword.****9****But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.* ***10****Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel:****11****“I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.” Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the Lord all that night*.*”***(1 Samuel 15:8-11, NIV)**

The Bible talks about a man, Saul, who sacrificed to God without being directed by Him. Even though he had the good heart to offer a sacrifice to God, he wasn’t instructed by God to do it due to the Lord rejected his giving and told Prophet Samuel to go and tell him that because of what he had done, He had stripped him of his kingship and leadership. It is very suitable that we allow God to lead us in our giving because not all giving pleases Him.

# Chapter 5GIVING YOURSELF TO GOD

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a* ***living sacrifice****, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”* **(Romans 12:1, NKJV)**

Embracing our faith means more than merely offering material possessions to God; it also entails surrendering ourselves completely to His will. While there are moments when God may call for our tangible assets like money or possessions, there are equally crucial times when He desires nothing more than our wholehearted devotion.

In 2 Corinthians 8:5, the Bible illustrates how the church in Macedonia generously devoted themselves to supporting the ministry of the Apostles, setting a powerful example. Similarly, in Romans 12:1-2, Paul emphasizes the importance of presenting ourselves as living sacrifices to God. He urges us to offer ourselves willingly in a manner that is both holy and pleasing to Him.

**What Does it Mean to Give Yourself to God?**

Giving ourselves to God may seem unfamiliar to many, as we're more accustomed to giving physical or material possessions like money, shelter, and food. However, this form of giving, involving offering ourselves, carries profound significance.

In my view, giving of oneself holds greater power than donating material possessions. This is because when we give of ourselves, it naturally prompts us to share what we possess. Just as the Macedonians prioritized dedicating themselves to the work of the ministry before contributing their material wealth, our focus should also be on understanding the essence of self-sacrifice.

We must grasp the true meaning of giving ourselves to God to appreciate why it's equally important, if not more so, than giving monetary donations. Let's delve into what it truly entails to offer ourselves to God.

***To give yourself to God means:***

1. **To Worship God with Your Entire Mind, Strength, Soul, Heart, and Body.**

*“So he answered and said,” you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,'**and 'your neighbour as yourself.”***(Luke 10:27, NKJV)**

A significant aspect of giving oneself to God entails surrendering one's mind, soul, body, heart, and strength in worship. In this era defined by the pursuit of wealth and personal achievement, it's crucial to recognize that true supernatural prosperity and success come from wholeheartedly surrendering to God.

Success and prosperity aren't necessarily achieved through the dispersion of energy and effort in various activities. Instead, the dedication of our energy and strength to the principles of the kingdom of God elevates us in life. Without sacrificing our all on the altar of God, we cannot access a certain level of greatness.

A survey of the Bible reveals that all the great men and women who experienced extraordinary success in their ministries did so by surrendering and sacrificing their entire lives to God. Consider figures like Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Elisha, David, and Paul. These patriarchs devoted their whole being—heart, mind, strength, and soul—to God.

1. **To Crucify Yourself for God.**

*“****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.”* **(Galatians 2:20), NKJV)**

A clear indicator that someone has fully surrendered themselves to God as a living sacrifice is their willingness to let go of their desires and priorities. They become indifferent to the opinions and judgments of others, even in the face of stigma, defamation, or misrepresentation. Instead, their sole focus remains on serving God and advancing His kingdom. They prioritize actions that align with God's will rather than seeking validation from people.

In the context of surrendering to God, the concept of crucifixion takes on profound meaning. It involves experiencing a spiritual death with Jesus Christ, leading to a persistent dedication to following God's commands and striving to fulfill His desires only.

Paul said, “*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain*.” **(Philippians 1:21, NIV)**

To truly surrender to God, we must reach a point where we resolve to stand firm in our faith, regardless of the circumstances. This signifies a complete giving of ourselves to God—a stage He desires us to reach. We must transcend our desires and willingly sacrifice our lives as a seed for God: a seed of self-denial and self-sacrifice.

The moment you sincerely accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and were baptized, you underwent a spiritual death to your former self. You must persistently live in this truth, viewing yourself as someone who has died and been resurrected with Christ. The Bible says after David had served God’s purpose, he died.

*“Now when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed*.*”* **(Acts 13:36, NIV)**

1. **To Live to Fulfil God’s Given Purpose for Your Life.**

Living to fulfill what God has called you to do and accomplishing His purpose for your life embodies sacrificing your life for God. It involves aligning your will with His, allowing His plans to supersede your own.

How many have genuinely dedicated our lives to fulfilling God's intentions on this Earth? He seeks our commitment to realizing His plans for us, demonstrating that we have relinquished our self-interests and prioritized His desires over our own. We must prioritize caring for what God has entrusted to us, fulfilling His call, and seeking to please Him alone.

1. **To Advance and Expand the Kingdom of God.**

*“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you.”* **(Matthew 6:33, NKJV)**

Moreover, actively advancing and expanding the kingdom of God is an act of dedication. Matthew 6:33 instructs us to prioritize seeking God's kingdom and righteousness, promising that all other needs will follow. This principle shows the necessity of placing God's kingdom as our foremost priority. It is incompatible to claim devotion to God while relegating the pursuit of His kingdom to a secondary role, distracted by pursuits unrelated to His purpose.

Prioritizing the advancement and expansion of God's kingdom prompts His blessings and prosperity upon us. By seeking the kingdom first, one is willing to sacrifice personal ambitions and resources to further God's agenda and work. This commitment demonstrates sincere dedication to serving God's purpose above all else.

1. **To Diligently Obey and Observe the Word of God.**

*“If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.”* **(Deuteronomy 28:1, NIV)**

The Lord instructed the Israelites to diligently obey and observe His word because He knew that by doing so, they would surrender themselves entirely to Him and offer their lives as a sacrifice. This act of surrender necessitates understanding and adhering to God's commands. The dos and don'ts prescribed by God can only be known and followed through the study of the Bible.

*“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but youshall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”* **(Joshua 1:8, NKJV)**

God's Word embodies His power and strength. Thus, adhering to and embracing it signifies surrendering your entire being to God's will. What you choose to obey and follow dictates your servitude. By aligning ourselves with the Word of God, we willingly subject ourselves to its authority; it guides and governs our lives, ultimately leading us to surrender complete control to God.

*“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”* **(Romans 6:16, NKJV)**

Whoever controls you wields absolute dominion over your life. They dictate your actions, decide your diet, determine your attire, prescribe your language, and shape your lifestyle. This is akin to the relationship Christians should cultivate with God. We must yield to His guidance, adhering diligently to His directives.

One cannot claim to be a Christian while disregarding God's will; acting contrary to His precepts, as outlined in the Bible, signifies a failure to fully surrender oneself as a living sacrifice to God. Romans 6:13 instructs us to offer our bodies as instruments of righteousness to God, achievable only through complete devotion by heeding His word.

1. **To Allow the Holy Spirit to Lead Your Life.**

*‘’For as many as are* ***led by the Spirit of God,*** *they are the sons of God.’’* **(Romans 8:14, KJV)**

To truly devote ourselves to God, we must allow the Holy Spirit to guide our lives. Without His presence, our efforts to surrender are futile. We are empowered to align our actions with God's will through the Holy Spirit's influence. He serves as our compass, directing, instructing, and enabling us to live according to God's principles. In a world marked by sin and moral decay, attempting to give ourselves wholly to God without the Holy Spirit's aid is immensely challenging. Thus, we must continually rely on His guidance to navigate this journey of surrender.

1. **It Also Means Submitting Your Will to God and Allowing God's Will to Override Your Own.**

*“Submit yourselves therefore to God……”* **(James 4:7, KJV)**

To truly surrender ourselves to God, we must learn to acknowledge His will and allow it to superimpose our own. It's not enough to express a desire to give ourselves to God; genuine surrender requires the submission of our will to His. His plans, desires, and purposes must take precedence over ours. Jesus taught us to pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, emphasizing the importance of aligning our desires with His divine plan.

*“Your kingdom comes.* ***Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.****”***(Mathew 6:10, NKJV)**

The problem is that, sometimes, we find it very difficult to allow the will of God to prevail in our lives. We live to please humanity more than divinity. That shouldn’t be the case because God created us and knows the best for us.

**Jesus Submitted His Will to The Will of God at Gethsemane**

*“Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet* ***not as I will****, but* ***as you will****.”* **(Matthew 26:39, NIV)**

At this juncture, Jesus experienced incredible frustration and agony, knowing he would soon face crucifixion. Yet, he willingly yielded to the divine will, declaring, "Not as I will, but as you will." This moment epitomizes His complete submission to God's plan—a powerful symbol of surrendering oneself to the divine. Jesus steadfastly ensured that His desires never eclipsed the will of God.

**Paul Gave His Whole Life to Christ**

Apostle Paul surrendered his all to God. First known as Saul, he gave his whole life to Christ and His ministry after encountering Him on his way to Damascus*.*

 *“What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.* **(Philippians 3:8-9, NIV)**

One of Paul's defining traits was his unwavering devotion and willingness to sacrifice everything for Jesus Christ and the ministry entrusted to him. This commitment was the cornerstone of Paul's ministry and pivotal to his life's achievements.

# Chapter 6GIVING TO THE POOR AND NEEDY

*“There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore* ***I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.****”* **(Deuteronomy 15:11, NIV)**

*“He who despises his neighbour sins;* ***but he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.****”***(Proverbs 14: 21, NKJV)**

This is another form of benevolence that garners favor with God and is highlighted in the scriptures, urging us to embody it. God has endowed specific individuals with blessings to aid those facing adversity. Jesus Christ's mission notably encompasses combating poverty. While self-sufficiency is encouraged, individuals will always rely on the support of more established ones. These are the marginalized and impoverished within our communities.

*“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”*  **(James 1:27, NIV)**

It is incumbent upon us to extend assistance, enabling them to thrive. It is paramount to utilize our resources—financial means, shelter, sustenance, or other provisions—to uplift and alleviate their plight.

*“Whosoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard.”* **(Proverbs 21:13, NKJV)**

It is within God's desire for us to bring joy and laughter to those who may feel hopeless, destitute, or abandoned by extending a helping hand.

As stated in **Proverbs 19:17 (NIV)***, “Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.”*

This verse emphasizes the significance of showing compassion towards others in need, reassuring us that our acts of kindness towards the less fortunate are not in vain but rather are investments in God's eyes, with blessings awaiting us in return.

**Alms Giving**

*“Take heed that ye do not your* ***alms*** *..” (***Matthew 6:1, KJV)**

To give alms can be explained as extending your arms to reach the needs of others beyond your boundaries. Almsgiving, as instructed by Jesus in Matthew 6:1, is a fundamental practice for believers. It encompasses providing aid to the poor and meeting their essential needs, such as food, water, and shelter, thereby enhancing their quality of life. This selfless act aligns with God's expectations for His followers.

In our daily surroundings—be it streets, villages, or cities—and in institutions like orphanages, prisons, and hospitals, there is a prevalence of individuals struggling with financial crises who need assistance. Out of gratitude for the blessings bestowed upon us by God, it is incumbent upon us to extend a helping hand to those in need.

The directive in Matthew 6:4 emphasizes the certainty of almsgiving—"when you give your alms," not "if you give." This underscores that almsgiving isn't a discretionary practice but a non-negotiable principle within the kingdom of God. "When" in Scripture denotes a mandatory action, indicating that Christians are obligated to engage in this practice unequivocally. Fulfilling this mandate aligns us with divine expectations and opens up the channels for blessings to flow into our lives.

By adhering to the principle of almsgiving, believers can expect to experience transformative changes in their circumstances, walking under open heavens where divine favor and provision abound.

**Reasons We Must Give to The Poor and Needy**

We must give to the poor and people in need for numerous reasons. Notable among them are listed below.

 **1. We Are Blessed to Bless Others Who Are in Need.**

*“There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.”* **(Deuteronomy 15:11, NIV)**

It's essential to understand that blessings from God are bestowed upon us with the intention for us to extend those blessings to others. These blessings aren't meant solely for our comfort; they serve as opportunities for us to support those in need within our communities.

*“They desired only that* ***we should remember the poor****, the very thing which I was also eager to do.”* **(Galatians 2:10, NKJV)**

Expanding our possessions into the lives of others is a pathway through which we receive blessings from God. Sometimes, God places individuals in situations where they rely on us for their daily needs. This is why some of us are blessed with abundant resources—to share and support those in need. It's not about emptying our coffers but sharing a portion of what we possess with others.

*“He who gives to the poor will not lack, But he who hides his eyes will have many curses*.” **(Proverbs 28:27, NKJV)**

When you generously share your blessings with others, you invite abundance into your life. This concept resonates deeply with Psalms 23:1, reminding us that we lack nothing when the Lord is our shepherd. Essentially, givers never find themselves in want. Helping others creates a cycle of abundance where your needs are always met.

1. Jesus Christ Became Poor So That We Will Be Rich Through His Poverty.

*“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”* **(2 Corinthians 8:9, NIV)**

If we believe that God takes pleasure in the well-being of His children, then it stands to reason that He must be deeply concerned and saddened by their experiences of poverty and insufficiency. While God undoubtedly loves those who are economically disadvantaged, it's clear that He hates the conditions of poverty, oppression, and suffering they endure.

In our communities and cities, numerous individuals face financial hardship and deprivation. As children of God, we must engage with these marginalized individuals actively. We are called to extend compassion and support by sharing the blessings God has bestowed upon us.

Let us embrace our responsibility to uplift and empower those in need, echoing God's love through our actions and generosity. By reaching out to the impoverished among us, we fulfill not only a duty to our fellow human beings but also honor our divine calling to embody love, justice, and compassion in the world.

1. What We Have Is Not for Us Alone but for God and others.

Part of what we receive from God is intended to honor Him, advance His kingdom, and support others. Our possessions and resources are not solely for our benefit. Therefore, we must share what we have with those around us. When we profess to worship and serve God, it's crucial to recognize that while we may not see God directly, our neighbors serve as tangible representations of Him. Jesus Christ emphasized this concept when he taught that our actions toward our neighbors are equivalent to those toward Him. Serving and caring for others directly expresses our devotion to God.

*“Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”* **(Matthew 25:34-46, NKJV)**

In this parable from the Bible, Jesus speaks about the judgment of all nations. He highlights that those who engage in acts of kindness—visiting prisoners, welcoming strangers, and providing food and drink to the hungry and thirsty—will inherit the kingdom of God. On the other hand, those who neglect these actions will not receive such inheritance.

Christianity entails more than simply attending church, reading the Bible, and praying. It calls for extending oneself beyond personal boundaries to assist others. We are born not only to pursue our interests but also to aid our fellow human beings. The more we give to the poor and needy, the more God provides for us.

*“...and do not forget to do good and share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”* **(Hebrews 13:16, NIV)**

The Bible teaches us that God takes pleasure not only in our spiritual practices like meditation, prayer, and evangelism but also in our generosity and sharing with others.

**What Ministers of God and Christians Must Know**

*“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”* **(James 1:27, KJV)**

While Jesus Christ commanded us to spread the gospel to all nations (Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19), it's evident that, at times, our message may not reach everyone due to various circumstances. People grappling with hunger, thirst, frustration, poverty, and other hardships may find it challenging to engage with our preaching. In such situations, the urgency of physical needs can overshadow spiritual matters, rendering individuals deaf to the word of God.

One practical approach to reaching these souls is by addressing their immediate needs. While some individuals may be receptive to the gospel once we speak to them, others may require tangible assistance before they can embrace the message of God. Therefore, alongside proclaiming the gospel, it is crucial to extend practical support to those in need to demonstrate God's love and compassion. By providing for their physical needs, we pave the way for a more receptive audience to receive the spiritual nourishment of the gospel.

*“If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit” (***James 2:15-16, KJV)**

Often, the most minor acts of generosity touch the hearts of non-believers and draw them closer to Christ. Many fail to realize that for our service to truly please God, it must extend beyond mere gestures. It requires reaching out to the widow, the orphan, the poor, the marginalized, and the stigmatized. This embodies the essence of a faith that truly pleases God.

As a pastor, it's vital to understand that not all congregation members are receptive to sermons and prayers alone. Some require tangible assistance before they can fully engage with spiritual teachings. Therefore, it becomes imperative to actively seek out those in need within the church community, extending invitations and utilizing church resources to provide material support. This compassionate outreach is essential for fostering a sense of belonging and enabling individuals to worship peacefully.

**The Pastor Who Went to Heaven**

God once took a certain pastor to heaven to show him some things there. The man recounted his experience, stating that he beheld numerous splendid mansions and structures upon arrival. Curious, he inquired of the angel accompanying him about the owners. The angel revealed that among them were dwellings designated for renowned figures such as John Wesley and Dwight L. Moody, alongside others for various individuals. Eager to see his own abode, the pastor implored the angel to lead him to it. Upon arrival, he was disheartened to find his building unfinished. Bewildered, he questioned the angel about the incomplete state of his residence. The angel solemnly explained that it was due to his limited impact on bringing souls to salvation, as evidenced by the fact that only two souls won.

Furthermore, the pastor recounted seeing two citations adorning the wall of his building. Puzzled, he sought clarification from the angel regarding their significance. The angel elucidated that one citation was awarded for clothing a needy man, while the other commemorated his charitable donation to someone in need. Though seemingly insignificant, these deeds were recorded in heaven, attesting to God's recognition and reward for acts of kindness and generosity. The angel reminded the pastor that every act of kindness is meticulously documented in heaven, earning the individual heavenly citations.

This profound encounter resonates with the scriptural assurance that God acknowledges and rewards the labor of love shown to the poor and disadvantaged (Hebrews 6:10). It serves as a poignant reminder that God's justice prevails, ensuring that those who give generously to others will themselves receive abundant blessings from above.

# Chapter 7GIVING TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF GOD

*“****Honour the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase****; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”* **(Proverbs 3:9-10, NKJV)**

Our faith calls upon us to contribute to the divine work with the resources bestowed upon us. Proverbs 3:9 emphasizes this, urging us to honor the Lord with our possessions and the first fruits of our labor. This commitment involves giving to uphold the Lord's work and expand His kingdom.

Given that we cannot perceive God with our physical senses, our contributions serve as tangible expressions of our devotion, actively fostering the expansion of His realm on earth. Yet, some individuals grow weary of giving to religious institutions, especially the church. However, weariness in giving to God should not take root within us. Our offerings symbolize our reverence and influence the nature of the provision we receive from Him. We invite flourishing and blessings upon our harvest by prioritizing the Lord in our giving.

What or whom we prioritize in our lives significantly shapes our existence. For example, supporting missionaries within our congregations aligns with God's directive to spread His message and win souls. Even if we cannot personally engage in missionary work, extending financial support to preachers represents a meaningful form of soul-winning.

Remember that our contributions to God’s work are financial transactions and acts of faith that sow seeds of blessings and grace.

**Examples of How People Gave to Support the Work of God in the Bible**

1. **Some Women Worshipped God and Supported the Work of God with Their Substance.**

*“And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.”* **(Luke 8:2-3, KJV)**

Once, while Jesus Christ was with his disciples, some women brought their resources to support His ministry. Their generous contribution was driven by a desire to see Jesus' mission thrive and prosper. Inspired by their selfless dedication to the cause of Christ, we are called to follow their example and extend our support in any way we can.

1. Disciples Gave Their Materials and Substances to Support the Work of Christ.

*“Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.”* **(Acts 4:34-37, KJV)**

After the death of Jesus Christ, the disciples passionately dedicated themselves to spreading His gospel, an instruction He explicitly laid out in Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:15. They embarked on a mission that took them far and wide, from Judaea and Jerusalem to Samaria and beyond, tirelessly proclaiming the good news.

As their ministry flourished, the need for material support arose to sustain both themselves and their work. In a display of unity and devotion, the community made a collective decision to contribute all they had to further the cause of Christ. Some sold their property, while others donated food, clothing, and various resources, presenting them humbly at the apostles' feet. This generous outpouring provided for the disciples' needs and empowered the expansion of the gospel, aiding those who lacked material means.

The significance of this communal support cannot be overstated. Without it, the challenges of spreading the gospel would have been daunting. It exemplifies a timeless principle that Christ encourages us to embrace today: a spirit of sacrificial giving and unity, essential for advancing His mission in these present times. Let us heed this example as we strive to reach the world with the message of salvation.

**Various Forms of Giving to Support the Work of God**

Supporting the work of God encompasses various forms of giving, which deeply pleases Him. However, it's essential to discern that while we intend to support God's work, our contributions may not always align with His expectations. Thus, it can be challenging to ascertain the most appropriate ways to give. Let's explore how we can best fulfill this to bring joy to Him.

 **1. We Support the Work of God by Giving Towards Church-Building Projects.**

Numerous churches have yet to construct auditoriums; these communities need our support. It's incumbent upon us to assist these churches in constructing their auditoriums and cathedrals. The church serves as a sanctuary for worship, and aiding in its physical expansion is tantamount to supporting the work of God.

As Jesus stated, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). While Jesus is the ultimate builder of the church spiritually, we have a vital role to play in supporting His mission. While Jesus builds the church spiritually, we must contribute materially.

This extends beyond our congregations; any church engaged in a building project deserves our support, whether through financial donations, provision of materials like steel and concrete, or other means. Our willingness to offer support demonstrates our commitment to advancing God's Kingdom. His provision has historically blessed those who contribute to His Kingdom's progress.

1. We Give to God's Work by Supporting Soul Winners, Missionaries, and Disciples in the Church.

Many individuals dedicate their time to embark on missions aimed at winning souls. These missionaries, evangelists, pastors, and other ministers have chosen to journey to villages, towns, cities, and even other countries to preach and convert souls. However, their endeavors often require substantial financial and material support. We need to recognize the significance of aiding these individuals in spreading the gospel. Our contributions, no matter how small, serve a greater purpose and will not go unrewarded by God, as the act of soul-winning holds immense value in His eyes.

Supporting these missions is akin to directly encountering Jesus and honoring Him with our resources. Jesus Christ's ultimate desire is for all humanity to find salvation through Him, so He sacrificed Himself as a ransom for our sins. Thus, He entrusts us with the responsibility to exert our utmost efforts in spreading His message and winning souls, whether through preaching or providing financial assistance to those who do.

Some individuals may find it easier to support secular projects rather than missions dedicated to God's work. However, we must ponder the blessings that await us when we invest in missions. By funding missions, covering the salaries of ministers and missionaries, and offering various forms of support, we are investing in the temporal needs and the spiritual and eternal welfare of countless individuals.

Our contributions can catalyze positive transformations in our homes, relationships, communities, and even the eternal destinies of many souls. Therefore, let us embrace the opportunity to support missions wholeheartedly, knowing that our actions align with God's will and hold the promise of abundant blessings.

1. We Also Give to the Work of God by Utilizing the Gifts that God Has Given us for the Benefit of the Church.

Many of us may not realize that utilizing our gifts and talents within the realm of God's house is equivalent to contributing to His divine work. Ephesians 4:8-12 highlights this truth, explaining that Christ bestowed gifts upon humanity to edify His church and equip the saints for ministry. The work of God flourishes and evolves through the utilization of these gifts. It's perplexing to consider how individuals may profess complete surrender to God while neglecting to share the gifts bestowed upon them for the betterment of others and the advancement of His kingdom.

Take, for instance, the gift of singing. If one possesses the ability to sing, doing so within the context of the church serves to enrich the congregation's spiritual experience. Similarly, proficiency in musical instruments can be utilized to uplift and inspire fellow worshippers. Whether preaching, evangelizing, or any other form of ministry, each individual's unique talents can be harnessed to fortify the body of Christ and extend His reign.

Scripture delineates various categories of spiritual endowment: the nine spiritual empowerment gifts as outlined in 1 Corinthians 12, the seven functional gifts detailed in Romans 12:6-8, and the five ministerial gifts elucidated in Ephesians 11:4. All of these gifts are divine provisions entrusted to us to expand God's kingdom. Therefore, each of us must introspect and discern the specific gifts, talents, or skills with which we've been blessed so that we may contribute to the improvement of the church and the advancement of His divine purpose.

**Reasons Why We Should Give to Support the Work of God**

Are we giving to the work of God in vain, or are there motivations and reasons behind our giving? I firmly believe that there are numerous tangible and scriptural reasons why we are called to support the work of God. Our contributions to God’s work are never in vain.

From my observation, many individuals struggle to give to support the work of God because they lack a clear understanding of the reasons behind this practice. If the body of Christ is sufficiently enlightened about the importance of giving to the work of God, we will be motivated and empowered to do so. Noteworthy reasons include:

 **1. When We Give to the Work of God, We Give to Our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”* **(Mathew 25:40, NKJV)**

Every contribution we make to support the ministry of God is, in essence, an offering to Himself. It's a fundamental principle: our donations to the church and our assistance to our neighbors are ultimately acts of devotion to God, even though we cannot physically present them directly to Him. We invest in our spiritual growth and development when we give to further God's work.

*“He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord,
And He will pay back what he has given.”***(Proverbs 19:17, NKJV)**

When we contribute to the work of the Lord Almighty, we're investing in our spiritual growth. What we offer to God today lays the foundation for the blessings He bestows upon us tomorrow. The more we give to support Christ's work, the greater our spiritual reserves grow, enriching our lives in the days to come.

*“Not that I seek the gift itself, but I do seek the profit which increases to your [heavenly] account [the blessing which is accumulating for you].”***(Philippians 4:17, AMP)**

Never underestimate the significance of what you offer to God, for it paves the way for your future. If you seek to amass great treasures in heaven, be generous in giving to God. On the other hand, if you give sparingly, expect less from God. Our contributions to God correlate with the abundance of treasures awaiting us in heaven.

 *“But* ***store up for yourselves treasures in heaven****, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”* **(Matthew 6:20, NIV)**

When we give to support God's work, we invest in treasures that await us in heaven. It's a supernatural investment where God multiplies our contributions, building our heavenly treasures beyond measure.

1. We Always Get Rewards from God When We Give to Support His Work.

 *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”* **(1 Corinthians 15:58, NKJV)**

There is always a reward for what we give to God. If God does not even reward us on this earth, He will reward us in heaven.

*“Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.”* **(Ecclesiastes 11:1, NIV)**

We always need to give to support the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor will not be in vain.

*“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”* **(Hebrews 6:10, KJV)**

God will always reward us when we think about His works because He is not unrighteous to forget our labor of love that we show to His work and His ministers.

1. So That We Can Expand and Advance the Kingdom of God.

What you offer to support the work of the Lord aids in the growth and advancement of the kingdom of God. As members of the body of Christ, we must contribute what we possess to bolster and propel the kingdom forward. This is why Jesus prioritized seeking the kingdom of God first (Matthew 6:33). Prioritizing the kingdom fosters an accumulation of resources, enabling us to effectively expand His kingdom.

1. To Allow Many Unsaved People to Come to the Saving Knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Jesus assigned us the commission to usher people into God’s kingdom. By supporting God's work, we facilitate opportunities for those in the world (sinners) to enter His kingdom. In these challenging times, numerous resources are necessary to foster the transformation and advancement of God's kingdom, with finances being pivotal. The dissemination and instruction of the gospel demand substantial financial support. Hence, God anticipates our assistance through giving, enabling the gospel to permeate worldwide and rescue the unsaved from impending destruction.

# Chapter 8GIVING OF OFFERINGS

*“Each of you must bring* ***a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you****.”* **(Deuteronomy 16:17, NIV)**

*“Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;* ***bring an offering and come into his courts****.”* **(Psalms 96:8, NIV)**

Offerings, a customary practice in religious settings, represent the financial contributions made within the confines of a place of worship, typically called the house of God. It is incumbent upon individuals to participate in this act of giving to support the divine purpose and further the kingdom of God. Despite occasional discontent expressed by some congregants regarding the frequency or enthusiasm with which pastors collect offerings during church services, it is crucial to recognize that these contributions are not intended for the enrichment of religious leaders or the institution itself but rather for the greater glory of God.

While it is common for pastors to encourage congregants to give generously, it is imperative to understand that the ultimate beneficiary of these offerings is God Himself. Consequently, divine direction and purpose guide these funds' specific allocation and utilization. As such, we are called to offer our financial contributions without reservation, trusting in God's sovereignty to direct the use of these resources according to His will.

Regrettably, there have been instances where certain individuals within the clergy have misappropriated funds or exploited the act of giving for personal gain, thereby tarnishing the sanctity of the ministry. However, such misconduct should not deter believers from fulfilling their duty to contribute offerings within the house of God.

Drawing from the teachings of Malachi 3 in the Bible, where the Lord admonished the Israelites for withholding their offerings, it becomes evident that failing to participate in this act of giving is tantamount to robbing God. Thus, individuals are encouraged to embrace the spiritual significance of offerings and faithfully honor this practice as an expression of devotion and obedience to God.

 *“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and* ***offerings****.”* **(Malachi 3:8, NIV)**

In contrast to tithes, offerings are not bound by a specific amount according to divine instruction; however, they are expected to be given generously. Reflecting on the abundance of blessings bestowed upon us by God, we are encouraged not to come before Him empty-handed when we gather in His house unless dire financial circumstances prevent us from doing so. Our offerings serve as opportunities for God to manifest His character through our acts of generosity. As we demonstrate our willingness to give, He faithfully ensures our needs are met and showers us with abundant blessings, as Philippians 4:19, KJV states: "But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Furthermore, in 2 Corinthians 9:8, it is affirmed that God's grace is boundless, enabling us to have all sufficiency in every aspect of our lives, empowering us to contribute to every good work.

 **Reasons Why We Must Give Offerings in The House of God**

You may wonder why I've dedicated some time to delve deeper into offerings. Having explored the essence of offerings, let's now delve into the significance of this practice.

 **1. The Offering We Give in the House of God Symbolizes Our Gratitude to God for What He Has Done for Us.**

Expressing gratitude for God's blessings bestowed upon us is often demonstrated through offerings given in His vineyard. When sharing testimonies in church, it's common practice to accompany them with an offering. This offering symbolizes our thanks for God's protection, guidance, and blessings in our lives and work. Beyond mere words, we must also utilize our resources to demonstrate appreciation for His benevolence. This aspect must be addressed to ensure further blessings flow into our lives.

Refusing to dedicate a portion of what we've been given to glorify and serve Him contradicts the principle of gratitude. Therefore, offering back to God what He has provided us is pivotal in maintaining His continuous provision and blessings.

1. Some of the Offerings are Used to Pay the Pastors, Other Leaders, and Workers in the House of the Lord.

In the Old Testament, God instructed His people to give offerings and tithes to support the priests, Levites, and others serving in the house of God. Unfortunately, some individuals oppose the financial support provided to pastors and ministers. However, it's important to recognize that God may guide church leaders to allocate offerings towards various purposes, such as supporting developmental projects or aiding specific individuals both within and outside the congregation.

While some pastors have indeed commercialized the work of God, it's crucial to understand that not all pastors follow this path. There are some individuals who are called by God and are genuinely and faithfully serving in the ministry with diligence. Supporting those who dedicate themselves to serving God within the church is essential.

Investing in the support of church leaders and workers is a financial and spiritual commitment. Such contributions are believed to lead to divine rewards, fruitfulness, and protection from adversities.

1. Some of Our Offerings are Used to Build Churches and Buy Musical Instruments and Material Things That Help the Church Advance Physically.

The church exists for God's purpose, yet it doesn't rely on money raining down from the heavens for its sustenance. God doesn't make physical appearances to hand over funds for purchasing necessary instruments and equipment. Instead, these resources are acquired through giving offerings within the church community.

 As Jesus stated, "I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18); it's not a literal promise of his physical presence on Earth to construct the church; rather, it signifies that the building of His church will occur through human efforts. Therefore, we must learn to contribute to constructing Christ's church by specifically giving our offerings.

Those who contribute to the physical construction of God's church invest in their prosperity and success as God blesses them and meets their needs. An exemplary figure in this regard is David, described as a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14), who generously donated a significant portion of his possessions for the construction of the house of God (1 Chronicles 22). Thus, our prosperity and success are intertwined with our support for the church of God.

1. **Some of the Offerings We Give in the Church Are Used to Support the Needy and The Weak (Welfare for Church Members).**

*“If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profits?”* **(James 2:15-16, KJV)**

The contributions we make in the house of God serve a dual purpose: they provide essential support to the vulnerable and impoverished within the church community while sustaining the welfare of the church itself. This act of giving brings profound relief to those in need, fostering a sense of unity and compassion among our members.

Our offerings play a crucial role in extending assistance during times of adversity. Whether aiding individuals facing financial struggles, providing comfort to those mourning the loss of a loved one, or supporting members navigating various forms of hardship, our collective generosity ensures that no one in our churches faces their challenges alone.

Moreover, our offerings contribute to the overall well-being of the church, enabling us to maintain essential services, facilities, and programs that benefit the entire congregation. By giving generously, we fulfill our duty to support one another and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that unite us as a church family.

# Chapter 9GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

*“****The first fruits of your grain*** *and* ***your new wine*** *and* ***your oil****, and* ***the first of the fleece of your sheep,*** *you shall give to the Lord.”* **(Deuteronomy 18:4, NKJV)**

*“Honor the Lord with your possessions and with* ***the firstfruits of all your i****ncrease; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”* **(Proverbs 3:9 – 10, NKJV)**

The first fruits of our increase must be given to God. In Deuteronomy 18:4, the Lord commanded the Israelites to offer the first fruits of all their earnings to Him. This principle applies to us today: whatever we gain from our occupations for the first month or time, whether money or material things, constitutes our first fruit, and we should dedicate it to God.

For instance, if you are a government worker, your salary and any additional sources of income you receive for the first time are considered your first fruit. Likewise, if you are a farmer, the produce from your harvest represents your first fruit. Therefore, these earnings serve as the sources of first fruits for the government worker and the farmer. By giving our first fruits, we honor God and acknowledge His provision.

**Why Should We Give Our First Fruits to God?**

 **1. When We Give Our First Fruits to God, He Takes Control of the Rest of Our Fruits.**

When we give our fruits to God first, He assumes control over everything. By offering your first fruits to God, you entrust the rest to Him. God does not force us to place our affairs in His hands, but when we willingly give our first fruits, we invite Him to take control of the remainder.

1. It Is the Way of Honoring God with Our Substance.

*“Honour the Lord with your possessions and with* ***the firstfruits of all your increase****; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.’’* **(Proverbs 3:9 – 10, NKJV)**

We honor God when we give Him what we have, especially the first fruits of our income. Never withhold your first fruits from God, as He has always shown a keen interest in them. This is evident from His command to the Israelites in the Old Testament to offer their first fruits to Him.

1. To Acknowledge the Lordship and Supremacy of God.

First fruits are offered to God as a sign of acknowledging His lordship and supremacy. As the Almighty and the owner of everything on earth (Psalm 24:1-2), God deserves our reverence and recognition. By giving our first fruits to Him, we demonstrate our respect for His sovereignty and majesty.

1. **It Shows Our Dependence on the Lord God and Our Trust in Him.**

We offer our first fruits to God to demonstrate our dependence on Him and acknowledge Him as our Jehovah Jireh (great provider). There is no one like Him. He has always provided for us and has never failed us. James 1:17, NKJV declares, “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.”

1. **It Makes Us Attract Divine Multiplication and Increase in All Our Endeavour.**

*“So shall thy barns be filled with plenty and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.”* **(proverbs 3:10, KJV)**

Sometimes, God desires to bless us, but He refrains because we haven't given Him anything to work with. When we offer Him our first fruits, we create a platform for Him to multiply and increase our efforts in all our endeavors. This act sets the foundation upon which our prosperity and success can be built. Remember, God doesn't need our material possessions in heaven; instead, He wants us to offer a portion of our income to unlock His blessings and prosperity.

# Chapter 10GIVING OF YOUR TIME TO GOD

The amount of time you give to God will determine the degree of attention and time He will give to you.Many people are unaware of the importance of dedicating time to God. The amount of time we devote to God directly influences how He responds to us and the level of attention He gives us. God sees the end from the beginning; He knows what the future holds for us. By dedicating time to Him, we allow Him to guide us in using our time wisely and ensuring a bright future.

We can give God one hour, five hours, or even ten hours of our time daily. The time we give depends on our desire to expand God’s kingdom and gain His attention. You cannot give God a minimal amount of time and expect Him to give you His full attention. It doesn't work that way. With God, the more time you dedicate to Him, the more attention He gives you, and the more He blesses and prospers you.

**How The Devil Manipulates Our Time for Us to Fail to Give Some to God and His Kingdom**

Satan is actively working to steal our time to undermine our destinies and lives. He knows that, as believers, he cannot easily harm us physically; however, he can disrupt our peace and manipulate our focus. He distracts and occupies us by diverting our attention from essential tasks to trivial ones. This sometimes prevents us from focusing on what God wants us to hear or do.

The devil is described as a roaring lion seeking to destroy us (1 Peter 5:8). Sometimes, he introduces certain friends into our lives to engage us in unnecessary conversations, relationships, and activities that waste our time. Additionally, he uses television programs, movies, social media, and other distractions to occupy us. While these forms of entertainment are not inherently wrong, they can become tools for the devil to distract us if we are not careful.

If we are not vigilant, the devil can use these distractions to waste our time and divert us from the things of God. Instead of dedicating ourselves to soul-winning, prayer, Bible study, and service to God, we may find our time consumed by social media and other distractions.

Some valuable things can sometimes become detrimental to our progress in life. Learning how to gain mastery and control over most aspects of life is essential to prevent these things from being used against us. The enemy often seeks to steal our time to hinder our overall progress. Time is an important asset; once the enemy captures it, he can influence our lives.

C.S. Lewis addresses this concept in his poem "Satan's Meeting." In the poem, Lewis describes how the devil manipulates and steals our time, leaving us with little or no time for God and spiritual activities. By understanding this tactic, we can better guard our time and ensure it is used for meaningful and productive pursuits.

**Satan’sMeeting**

Satan called a worldwide convention of demons. In his opening address, he said, "We can't keep Christians from going to church."

"We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth." "We can't even keep them from forming an intimate relationship with their savior."

"Once they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken."
"So let them go to their churches; let them have their covered dish dinners, BUT Steal their time, so they don't have time to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ."
"This is what I want you to do," said the devil: "Distract them from gaining hold of their Savior and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day!"

"How shall we do this?" his demons shouted. "Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds," he answered. "Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow."

"Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6-7 days each week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles." "Keep them from spending time with their children." "As their families fragment, soon, their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work!"

"Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still, small voice." "Entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive." "To keep the TV, VCR, CDs and their PCs going constantly in their home and see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly."

"This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ." "Fill coffee tables with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with news 24 hours a day." "Invade their driving moments with billboards."

"Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, mail order catalogues, sweepstakes, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services, and false hopes." "Keep skinny, beautiful models on the magazines and TV so their husbands will believe that outward beauty is important, and they'll become dissatisfied with their wives..." "Keep the wives too tired to love their husbands at night." "Give them headaches too!" "If they don't give their husbands the love they need, they may begin to look elsewhere." "That will fragment their families quickly!"

"Give them Santa Claus to distract them from teaching their children the real meaning of Christmas. " "Give them an Easter bunny so they won't talk about his resurrection and power over sin and death."

"Even in their recreation, let them be excessive." "Have them return from their recreation exhausted." "Keep them too busy to go out in nature and reflect on God’s creation." "Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, plays, concerts, and movies instead." "Keep them busy, busy, and busy!"

"And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences." "Crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Jesus." "Soon, they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the good of the cause."
"It will work! It will work! It was quite a plan! "

"The demons went eagerly to their assignments, causing Christians everywhere to get busier and more rushed, going here and there. Having little time for their God or their families. Having no time to tell others aboutthe power of Jesus to change lives."

The big question is: Has the devil been successful in his schemes? You are the best judge, but I believe the enemy has succeeded. When I observe how we use our time in this era, it seems clear that the devil has taken dominion over it. He keeps many of us busy with unimportant things.

Now that we recognize the devil’s tricks, isn't it time to make a victorious comeback by rescheduling how we use our time? We need to guard our hearts and our time diligently. It’s time for a revival in how we manage our days!

**What Can We Do with The Time We Give to God?**

There are so many things that God wants us to do with the time we give to Him. However, some people say they do not have enough time to do something for God. Below are certain things we can do for Him with our time.

 **1. We Can Use It to Preach the Gospel to Win Souls for Him.**

*“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”* **(Mark 16:15, KJV)**

As Jesus prepared to ascend to heaven, he entrusted us with a sacred task: to spread the Gospel to all nations. This divine mandate, known as the Great Commission, underscores our responsibility as believers. Investing our time in fulfilling this commission not only serves God but also undermines the dominion of darkness when we bring souls into the light of God's kingdom.

1. We Can Use the Time We Give God to Study the Bible and Meditate on His Word.

*“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”* **(Joshua 1:8, NKJV)**

*“But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.”* **(Psalms 1:2, NKJV)**

God persistently urges us to immerse ourselves in His law and precepts through meditation, from the Old Testament to the New Testament. Given His delight in our daily study of scriptures, we must prioritize diving into His word. The lack of supernatural provision in our era stems mainly from a lack of dedication to studying and meditating on God's word.

The word stands as the ultimate authority, having endured countless tests without failure. The success we seek in education, family, governance, finances, and all facets of life resides within the Holy Scriptures. God Himself elevates His word above His very name (Psalm 138:2).

So, let me pose this question: How do you typically spend your time? Investing it in studying and meditating on God's word surpasses any other pursuit of lesser importance. God anticipates our continuous engagement with the Bible, enabling prophetic communication. He implores us to allocate quality time for reading and meditation, promising blessings in return.

1. **We Can Use the Time We Give to God to Intercede for Nations, Communities, Leaders, Servants of God, and Others.**

*“And I sought for a man among them, that should* ***make up the hedge, and stand in the gap*** *before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.”* **(Ezekiel 22:30, KJV)**

*“Confess your faults one to another, and* ***pray one for another,*** *that ye may be healed.**The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”***(James 5:16, KJV)**

Prayer is vital to our spiritual journey, particularly when it involves interceding for others. James 5:16 reminds us of the importance of praying for one another and seeking the well-being and progress of those around us. This practice is not merely a gesture of goodwill; it's a reciprocal relationship with God. The time we invest in praying for others reflects the attention and blessings we receive from the divine.

In 1 Samuel 12:23, Samuel highlights the importance of intercessory prayer by stating his refusal to overlook it. His dedication to praying for the people of Israel showcases his faith and acknowledges his role as a spiritual leader. His words demonstrate the connection in our spiritual paths; neglecting to pray for others is akin to ignoring our spiritual growth.

Samuel's dedication to intercession is mirrored in the prosperity of his ministry. His words carried weight and authority because they were underpinned by prayer and genuine concern for others' well-being.

Similarly, the story of Job illustrates the power of intercessory prayer. Despite enduring unimaginable trials, Job interceded for his friends, showing his resilience and faithfulness to God. In return, the Lord restored Job's fortunes and doubled them, highlighting the reciprocal nature of prayer and blessing.

Intercessory prayer is not just a selfless act of kindness; it's a spiritual discipline that enriches the pray-er and the prayed-for. As we lift others in prayer, we also lift ourselves, fostering a deeper connection with God and experiencing the power of His grace.

*“The LORD restored the fortunes of Job when* ***he prayed for his friends, And the LORD gave job twice as much as he had before****.”* **(**[**Job 42:10**](https://googleweblight.com/i?u=https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/Job/42/10&hl=en-GH&tg=207&pt=9)**, ESV)**

God seeks individuals willing to dedicate time to prayer, offering supplications for people, families, communities, and nations. He looks for those who will stand in the gap, interceding on behalf of others to shield them from destruction.

*“ I urge, then, first of all, that* ***petitions, prayers, intercession*** *and* ***thanksgiving*** *be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior,”* **(1 Tim 2:1-3, NIV)**

One of the disciples who decided to dedicate most of his time to intercede for others, especially believers, is Epaphras. This helped the church at Colossi to stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

*“Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you,* ***always laboring fervently for you in prayers****, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”* **(Colossians 4:12, NKJV)**

Are you ready to use some of the time you give God to stand in the gap for others? If you are ready, prepare yourself for uncommon favor and progress that people cannot fathom and you cannot decipher. There is no way that God will fail us if we spend time praying for the advancement of the kingdom and the progress of others.

1. **We Can Use the Time We Give God to Serve in His House.**

Serving God entails dedicating oneself to fulfilling duties that contribute to the advancement of His kingdom. Faithful service to God requires commitment and action; verbal acknowledgment is insufficient. These duties manifest in various forms, such as participation in church departments. There exists a wide array of responsibilities within the church community, including but not limited to ushering, pastoral roles, musical performances, teaching in Sunday School, and other forms of service.

Contrary to the past, where enthusiasm for serving in God's house was common, contemporary challenges have made it increasingly difficult for many to engage in such service. Nowadays, individuals often prioritize personal endeavors, mistakenly believing that spiritual fulfillment can solely arise from individual pursuits. However, revisiting and reviving the valuable religious practices that have been neglected is crucial. Returning to active involvement in the service of God can bring about a deeper sense of fulfillment and spiritual connection.

1. We Can Use the Time We Give God to Visit Church Members, Loved Ones, and Friends and Check Up on them.

It's crucial to effectively allocate our time to reach out to other community members. We should actively seek out those who have ceased attending church, those who infrequently participate, unwell individuals, those incarcerated, and anyone who may have, for various reasons, distanced themselves from their faith in God. Through visitation, we can offer support, encouragement, and solidarity to one another. It is a potent catalyst for fostering unity and nurturing spiritual growth within our church community.

**How to Utilize Your Time Judiciously So That You Can Give Some to God and His Kingdom**

*“So,* ***teach us to number our days****, That we may gain a hearts of wisdom.”* **(Psalms 90:12, NKJV)**

Utilizing time effectively can be challenging for many individuals who lack a clear understanding of efficient time management principles. To prioritize tasks and allocate time wisely, it's essential to grasp these principles and implement them effectively. By doing so, we can create space in our schedules to focus on meaningful pursuits and contribute to advancing our spiritual journey.

*“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16* ***redeeming the time****, because the days are evil*.*”*  **(Ephesians 5:15-16, NKJV)**

Now, let's delve into some fundamental principles of time management that can empower us to dedicate ample time to serving God and furthering the growth of His kingdom.

 **1.Ask God to Give You the Wisdom You Need to Manage Your Time Well.**

*“If any of you lack wisdom,* ***let him ask of God****, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”* **(James 1:5, KJV)**

To effectively utilize and manage your time, you must continually seek divine wisdom from God. As the ultimate planner and creator of time, God is best positioned to impart the knowledge and guidance necessary for effective time management. Reflecting on David's prayer in Psalm 90:12, where he sought divine insight to utilize his days wisely, it's evident that seeking God's guidance is crucial for prudent time management.

Similarly, we're encouraged not to shy away from asking God for wisdom in managing our time to pave the way for a fulfilling destiny. Drawing from the example of the sons of Issachar in 1 Chronicles 12:32, who discerned the times and knew the appropriate actions for success, it's clear that understanding the times and seasons is important. Without God's instruction, making the most of our time is challenging.

By seeking God's guidance, we can gain the insight and wisdom necessary to navigate our time effectively and fulfill our potential.

1. Know and Plan Your Priorities.

Prioritizing and planning one's life is pivotal for maintaining orderliness and achieving fulfillment. It requires a keen understanding of what holds significance and what holds lesser importance. While this may seem straightforward, many individuals struggle to discern between their desires and necessities. Yet, this crucial differentiation is necessary for allocating time effectively.

Conceptualizing time as an investment underscores its value. Just as one expects returns from financial investments, time should be invested judiciously to yield dividends. This perspective prompts us to allocate our time wisely, ensuring that each moment contributes meaningfully to our growth and satisfaction.

1. Draw A Schedule for Your Life (Have A Personal Timetable).

Creating a life timetable is necessary for effective time management and goal achievement. Consider crafting a detailed schedule tailored to your daily activities and aspirations. For instance, begin your day with a purposeful wake-up time, followed by an hour dedicated to Bible study and prayer. Subsequently, allocate time for personal reflection or meditation to foster spiritual growth. As the morning progresses, transition into preparation for work or school, ensuring a timely departure.

Incorporate breaks, social engagements, and relaxation periods into your schedule, depending on your occupation. Adhering to this structured timetable can optimize productivity and ensure a balanced lifestyle. Furthermore, maintaining awareness of your identity, vision, and mission empowers you to make informed decisions aligned with your values and goals.

1. **Deal With Interruptions.**

Interruptions are an unavoidable aspect of daily life. People and events can unexpectedly demand our time and attention, disrupting our focus and workflow. While fostering positive human relations is valuable, it's equally important not to indulge in unnecessary interruptions. When confronted with such disruptions, it's advisable to excuse oneself assertively and, when appropriate, reschedule appointments. This approach ensures productivity without compromising courtesy.

# Chapter 11UTILIZING YOUR GIFTS, TALENTS, AND SKILLS AS AN ACT OF GIVING TO PROFIT GOD’S KINGDOM AND OTHERS

Giving can also be perceived as putting your skills, talents, gifts, and abilities to work, creating beneficial products and services for others, and advancing the kingdom of God. We often think about giving in terms of money, resources, and other material things.

However, another significant category of giving involves using our skills, talents, and potential to help and serve others. By doing so, we can enable people to live better lives and serve God more effectively. We can apply our knowledge and abilities to simplify tasks and use our skills to bring efficiency and improvement in various fields, which can drastically change the lives of those around us.

God has endowed us with unique potentials and talents, and He expects us to develop and use them effectively to build His kingdom and help one another. Some people mistakenly believe that when the Bible says, "Give, and it shall be given to you," it refers only to money or physical possessions. This is a narrow interpretation. When we put our skills and talents to work, we can receive money and other resources.

For instance, Bill Gates used his talent to develop computer systems, and now he is counted among the world's wealthiest people. Although Gates did not give away money to achieve this, he explored and utilized his innate abilities, resulting in significant financial returns. This example illustrates that giving through our talents can lead to substantial rewards.

The expansion and advancement of God’s kingdom depend significantly on our ability to use the talents and gifts He has given us.

**The Servants Who Used Their Gifts and Those Who Failed to Use Their Gifts (Mathew 25:14-28)**

The Bible tells a story about a master who entrusted his three servants with talents before embarking on a journey. To one servant, he gave five talents; to another, he gave two; and to the last, he gave one. He instructed them to work with these talents until his return.

The servant who received five talents diligently worked with them and gained five more. Similarly, the servant who received two talents also put his to use and earned two additional talents. However, the servant who received one talent chose not to use it; instead, he buried it in the ground.

Upon returning, the master was pleased with the two servants who had used their talents productively. Conversely, he was furious with the servant who had buried his talent. His anger was because everyone is expected to use their talents to benefit others. By refusing to use his talent, the servant demonstrated selfishness, displeasing the master.

The servant who buried his talent did nothing to make it productive. He didn’t even consider investing it, resulting in no profit. He returned the talent just as it was given to him. In terms of rewards, those who worked with their talents were blessed with abundance, while the ones who did not use their talents lost even the little they had. His failure to utilize his talent led to the loss of it altogether.

This story illustrates that God is displeased with people who fail to develop and use their talents, skills, and potential to help others and to enlarge the kingdom. On the contrary, He rewards those who cultivate and use their gifts. Above all, God is most pleased when these talents and abilities are used to advance His kingdom.

# Chapter 12THE RIGHT AND EFFECTIVE WAYS OF GIVING

The Bible teaches that we will receive rewards in return when we give. This promise often motivates us to give with the expectation of receiving something back. However, it is unfortunate that many people give without receiving any return. The primary reason for this is that we often do not give correctly.

As believers, we should not only focus on giving but also on understanding the correct and effective ways to give, ensuring that our efforts are not in vain. The Lord wants us to receive good rewards for our giving. Let us now explore some of the proper and effective ways to give.

 **1. The Intentions Behind Our Giving Should Be Good.**

The intention behind our giving is the “why” of your giving. Beloved, we must cultivate positive and sincere intentions when we give. When you offer something, God will evaluate your motive; this motive will determine whether God blesses you or not. When the motive is pure, God will bless and reward you, and vice versa. Therefore, we must always examine our motivations and reasons before giving.

Are you giving in the church so the members will see you have money, or are you giving to help expand the kingdom of God? Are you giving to mock and ridicule others, or are you giving to genuinely glorify God? Are you giving because you feel forced to do so? These are important questions to ask yourself before you give. Sometimes, it is better not to give than to give with a wrong motive.

Always give to expand the kingdom of God, bring progress to the lives of others, and glorify the name of the Lord. Never give to glorify yourself, as it brings no profit. Jesus said those who give to seek human praise have already received their reward (Matthew 6:3).

1. Pray Over What You Want to Give Before You Give.

It is advisable to pray over anything we plan to give before giving it. Spending ample time praying and committing what you intend to give into God's hands is essential. Praying before giving has several benefits:

* God sanctifies what we plan to give with the blood of Jesus.
* He deals with any demonic forces that may rise against us after the giving.
* He directs us to give according to His will and purpose.

Anything done without God's assistance lacks divine backing.

1. Plan Towards What You Want to Give.

God is a master planner and believes in planning. Before giving, you must plan well on what you want to give and ask yourself whether it will please God.

*“Is there anyone here who,* ***planning*** *to build a new house, doesn't first sit down and figure the cost so you'll know if you can complete it?”* **(Luke 14:28, MSG)**

Giving must be done appropriately. For example, when giving a car, house, time, or money to God or someone, consider its appropriateness, value, timing, and usefulness and whether it will please the recipient and the Lord.

1. **Give cheerfully.**

*“6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have abundance for every good work.”* **(2 Corinthians 9:6-8, NKJV)**

To give cheerfully means giving willingly and with a joyful heart. A Christian should never give with an unwilling heart. We should not give grudgingly or out of compulsion; we must give with happiness. This is what our father expects us to do.

One of the reasons why the people in the prophet Malachi’s time were not blessed was that they always grumbled against God regarding giving their tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:13, 14). As a result, their financial doors were closed. Never allow someone to coax you to give in support of the promotion of God’s kingdom.

 **5. Give Secretly.**

*“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”* **(Mathew 6:1-4, NKJV)**

Jesus taught that if we want our sacrifices and giving to be accepted by God, we should not do it openly. Those who give publicly will receive praise from people, but God will not bless them. It is better to give in secret rather than in public. We should never give to be seen and praised by others. Even if someone accidentally sees our act of giving, we should not be guilty of showcasing it or seeking recognition.

6. Be Led by the Holy Spirit in Your Giving.

*“As many that are* ***led by the Spirit of God*** *they are the sons of God” (***Romans 8:14, KJV)**

As children of God, we must consult the Holy Spirit before giving. The Holy Spirit should always guide our giving. Sometimes, God directs us to give to specific people, ministries, institutions, or groups. However, we often need to seek His guidance. Giving under God's direction is more valuable and purposeful in His sight and yields abundant blessings.

When we rely on God's direction in giving, we avoid the enemy's snares. For example, a beggar might ask you for money, and you might give out of pity without consulting God or seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance, which can lead to some casualties. This is why giving under the Holy Spirit's influence is very important.

7. Give Something Valuable.

As much as God is interested in how and why we give, He is also interested in “what” we give. What we give means the amount, quantity, and quality of what we give. We do not have to give to God or people without considering their worth and quality.

The Bible recounts the story in Genesis 4:3-5 of two brothers, Cain and Abel, who each brought a sacrifice to God. While Abel's offering pleased God, Cain's did not. Have you ever wondered why Cain's sacrifice failed to find favor with God? The writer of Hebrews provides insight into this in Hebrews 11:4, explaining that Abel's sacrifice was accepted because it was offered in faith and was of excellent quality, whereas Cain's offering was deemed inferior.

*“By faith* ***Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain****, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”* **(Hebrews 11:4, KJV)**

This means that God desires us to offer something excellent and precious to Him.

**How God Rebuked the Israelites for Offering Polluted Bread and Sick Animals to Him**

*“Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, the table of the Lord is contemptible. And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts*.”  **(Malachi 1:7-8, KJV)**

The Bible recounts that during the time of Prophet Malachi, the Israelites presented polluted and corrupted gifts to God, offering blind, lame, and sick animals. These offerings did not please God. He challenged them to show such defective animals to their president and honorable men, asking if they would be pleased with these offerings. God deserves nothing less than the best as the Almighty and Supreme Being.

1. Exercise Faith in Giving.

Without faith, our actions cannot truly please God in any aspect of our lives. Merely giving without faith does not bring satisfaction to God. He is not solely concerned with our acts of giving but also with the faith that underpins them. When we give with faith, we engage God's promise of reward. Many give without receiving any reward because they lack faith in their giving.

As the Bible teaches, faith without corresponding actions is lifeless; likewise, actions without faith bear no fruit.

*“By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”* **(Hebrews 11:17-18, NIV)**

Abraham offered his son, Isaac, in faith. That is why the Bible calls him the father of faith. It was not because the sacrifice was too big but because he offered Isaac in faith.

# EMBRACE JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR

If you are reading this book and have not yet placed your faith in Jesus Christ, I humbly invite you to do so. Salvation is free for everyone because Christ has already paid the price on the cross. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV) declares, "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.’

All you have to do is embrace the Lordship of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV) says, " that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Kindly pray this simple prayer from your heart.

**Lord Jesus,**

I invite you to come into my life today. Be the Lord and Savior of my life. I believe You died for my sins and resurrected triumphantly again for me. I seek forgiveness for all my wrongdoings through your blood shed on Calvary. I turn away from all my sins and have decided to follow you for the rest of my life. Lord, I give you all my anxieties, fears, infirmities, hurts, frustrations, etc. I received total liberation and healing today. Write my name in the Book of Life. I am a new creation in Christ Jesus from this day forward.

Thank you, Lord!

# ABOUT THE BOOK

"The Biblical Anatomy of Giving" explores the concept of giving as described in the Bible. The book provides a comprehensive understanding of the significance of giving and its implications for living as a Christian. The author, Bezalel Dickson Kyeremeh, uses biblical stories, theological insights, and practical wisdom to explain the fundamental principles of generosity and their relevance today.

This book goes beyond mere theoretical discourse. It provides readers with actionable steps to cultivate a lifestyle of generosity that transcends cultural and societal norms. With compelling anecdotes and thought-provoking reflections, the book challenges readers to reevaluate their attitudes toward wealth, possessions, and the stewardship of resources.

“The Biblical Anatomy of Giving" explores the concept of sacrificial giving and the correlation between giving and material prosperity. It offers readers a transformative journey toward a deeper understanding of God's abundant provision and His call to radical generosity.

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bezalel Dickson Kyeremeh is the lead Pastor of Overcomers Revival Global Ministries, based in Illinois, USA, and a lecturer at Transformation Through the Truth (T.3) Bible College in Kumasi, Ghana. He is a seasoned Bible teacher, revivalist, author, mentor, and pastor. He holds a Doctor of Optometry degree from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), a bachelor’s degree in Theology and Ministerial Sustainability from Global Christ-Like Bible College, and a Diploma in Apostolic Theology from Believers End-Time Harvest (BETH) College, all located in Kumasi, Ghana.

With a decade of ministry experience, Bezalel is pursuing a Master of Theological Studies and Master of Leadership degrees at Trinity International University, Illinois, USA. His passion is spreading the gospel of Christ to the world and enlightening the church about the mysteries and revelations of the kingdom of God.

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