

I. Review

- A. A generous spirit goes far beyond giving money, through giving money is a key way that we express generosity. Being generous includes areas of finance, possessions, time, and love.
- B. Generosity is defined as giving more than what is expected. Giving is not necessarily generosity. Generosity implies going beyond the norm.
- C. The Scriptures are clear that the righteous are expected to be generous (Psalm 37:21, 26, 1 Timothy 6:18) and that the Lord blesses those who are generous (Psalm 112:5, Prov 11:25, Proverbs 22:9, 2Cor 9:6-11).

II. Give and it will be given

Luk 6:37-38 "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

- A. "Give and it will be given to you" – generous giving engages you with a spiritual principle that has a "cause and effect" relationship. The principle of sowing and reaping or giving and receiving are well established in the scriptures. The giving and receiving is not limited to money, it applies to everything, judgment, mercy, forgiveness, love, kindness, etc...
- B. "Good measure, pressed down, shaken together" – because first century Israel was a heavily agricultural society, this reference is talking about the way people would measure grain or figs or the like. They would use their measuring basket or jar and they would fill it to the top (good measure), then they would press the contents down, shaking it so that more could be fit in the measuring container.
- C. "Put into your bosom" – refers to the ancient garments the people wore that had a long front to the tunic so that the people could carry much in the front of their garment.
- D. "the measure you use, will be measured back" – the amount and the way you give is the amount and the way you will receive

III. Biblical Premises about Giving

- A. Giving generously is expected by saints
Psalm 37:21 ... the righteous give generously

- B. Giving requires willingness
- 2Co 8:12** For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.
- C. Giving is measured by what you have to give (2 Cor 8:12)
- Mar 12:41-44** But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. 43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."
- D. The Lord accepts your giving as giving to Him (Mat 23:34-40, Heb 6:10)
- Pro 19:17** Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.
- E. Faithful in little faithful in much
- Luk 16:1** He also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions.
- F. Giving is more blessed than receiving
- Act 20:35** ... remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

IV. What happens when we give

- A. We express our love for Jesus through our obedience
- Job 14:1** "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.
- B. We provide for ourselves an eternal inheritance (Luk 12:33, Mat 6:19-20)
- Mat 6:20** "...lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven..."
- C. We exchange money for souls (Luk 16:1-9)
- D. We establish how we want to receive (2 Cor 9:6, Luk 6:38, Mar 4:24)
- 2Co 9:6** Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.
- E. We set ourselves up for a release of blessing (Mal 3:8-10)
- Mal 3:10-12** Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.