

# “When Giving isn’t Giving”

## **Giving isn’t giving when it’s returning.**

*The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it.  
The world and all its people belong to him.*

Psalm 24:21 (NLT)

*But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!*

1 Chronicles 29:14 (NLT)

*“One tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy.*

Leviticus 27:30 (NLT)

*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!*

Malachi 3:10 (NLT)

## **Giving isn’t a burden when it’s blessing others.**

*Since you excel in so many ways - in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us - I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.*

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NLT)

*Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.*

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT)

*The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.*

Proverbs 11:25 (NLT)

## **Giving isn’t giving when it’s forced.**

*Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don’t have.*

2 Corinthians 8:12 (NLT)

*Remember this - a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.*

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NLT)

## **SO WHAT?**

### **Giving isn’t possible when you are buried.**

*You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes!*

Haggai 1:6 (NLT)

*Just as the rich rule the poor,  
so the borrower is servant to the lender.*

Proverbs 22:7 (NLT)

**Give what you can,  
when you can,  
out of what you have,  
to be a blessing.**

## **Growth Group Questions**

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. What is the most unusual thing you have ever bought?

2. What kinds of things are you willing to pay more for?

What kind of things do you think are stupid to pay good money for?

3. Tell of a time some one blessed you with an act of generosity at just the right time?

Tell of a time you were able to bless someone with an act of generosity?

4. Which of the above in Question 3 is more rewarding? Why?

5. Re-read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Why is wealth so unreliable?

How do you decide what to spend for your enjoyment, and what to save for the future, and what to give away?

6. Re-Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. When have you felt pressured to give to something or someone? How did you handle the situation?

7. As you think about giving right now, what is on your heart to give to?