



## *Loosen Your Grip on Money: Give Generously*

Luke 6:38

The Lord Jesus said in Luke 6:38: *Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.* How do we loosen our grip on money and material possessions and give generously?

### **I. The ability to give and receive comes from God. Give Generously.**

Deuteronomy 8:18 says *“But remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth...”* Shouldn't we honor the Lord by offering to Him generously the first fruits of our labor? As Proverbs 3:9 instructs: *“Honor the LORD with your possessions and with the first produce of your entire harvest...”* When we give, we are simply giving back to Him what belongs to Him in the first place. As John Piper would put it: *“Giving God our tithes does not deny the truth that all our money is God's, it proves that we believe it.”*

### **II. Our attitude in giving matters to God. Give Intentionally, marked by cheerfulness.**

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor 9:7)*

Giving is a personal decision. No one else can make it for us. God sees the attitude of our hearts when we give - whether intentionally, or with reluctance or out of compulsion. God, the ultimate giver, has given each of us spiritual, physical, and financial gifts, and He wants each of us to be stewards of these gifts. He entrusted us with our time, talents, and treasure. It is up to us to decide what's in our heart to give. God loves a giver with a cheerful heart attitude.

### **III. We receive as we give willfully. Give Voluntarily.**

Does giving cause you stress and anxiety? You might be giving reluctantly. Do you give out of obligation or necessity? Are you struggling with the thought of how much money you need to give? That's giving out of compulsion. That's pride. Are you giving and tithing according to what God is telling you?

Discipleship plays an important role in our growth to becoming generous givers. We are held accountable as we teach and model biblical giving. As we make disciples and learn to obey Him by faith, God promises His abiding presence in our lives. We can confidently claim His promises and His provisions!

### **IV. We receive even while we are giving. Give Expectantly.**

It takes faith to be generous because the sowing comes first. Keep trusting in the Lord that He will fulfil His promises in perfect time. Be expectant as you follow His will in faith.

Generosity in giving will benefit you even though you don't look for it, demand it, or expect it. God will remember you. *For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. (Heb 6:10)*

### **REFLECTION/APPLICATION:**

God's love for us is most demonstrated on the cross. *“...God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8).* He is generous and promises to supply all our needs (Phil 4:19). When Paul talks about giving, it is always anchored on the grace of God through Jesus: *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 Cor. 8:9).* God's grace is the foundation of a generous person. How do we respond to God's goodness, grace and generosity? One application is for us to walk with Christ daily, to be

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filled by His Spirit that we may become more like Him. Walking in the Spirit would impact all areas of our lives including our attitude in giving.

### Review (Knowledge):

Please take a few minutes to read the summary above. What is the highlight of last Sunday's sermon for you and why?

### Sharing/Discussion (Practical Wisdom):

1. How would you describe your current giving?
2. What hinders you from giving (including your tithes) generously? Does giving cause you stress or anxiety? When you give, do you feel obligated or compelled? Are you giving in accordance with the Bible?
3. What practical steps can you take so you can grow in generous and cheerful giving? How can you help yourself follow-thru and sustain these steps for the long term?
4. What are the promises in the Bible that you are claiming in your life and motivate you to act by faith in the practice of giving?

**Prayer** (Take time to pray for one another.)

### God's Way to Heaven

1. **GOD LOVES YOU** and wants you to have **eternal life** with Him.

*John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."*

But most people aren't experiencing a meaningful life and aren't sure that they have eternal life because...

2. Man has a **SIN problem** which **SEPARATES** him from GOD. Every one has sinned.

*Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*

3. The **good news** is that **JESUS CHRIST** is God's **solution** to your sin problem. He is the **ONLY way** to heaven.

*1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also died for sins once and for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God..."*

4. Therefore you must **REPENT** of your sins and place your **FAITH** in **JESUS alone** to save you.

*Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the GIFT OF GOD; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."*

5. Upon believing and receiving Jesus, you have a **NEW LIFE** with complete assurance of **SALVATION**.

*1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."*



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