

Give and it Will be Given to You

The main point that I would suggest you focus on as you read through the following Scriptures, is the compassionate heart of God, and His desire for us to show compassion to the poor and needy; the hungry; widows and orphans; and even beggars. God's compassion is infinitely greater than we appreciate, and He wants us to have a deeper appreciation of His compassion.

It is abundantly clear that the longing of God's heart is that we 'give'; and if we give with genuine motives of love and compassion, He will give generously in return. There's no way that we can even begin to compare our generosity with the incredible generosity and grace of God who sacrificed his beloved Son as the punishment for our sins, and as a result freely offers us eternal life. Jesus gave up His all for totally undeserving creatures such as we all are.

Are we willing to make a sacrifice by giving up some of our own 'wants', or even needs, to give to those who have greater needs than we do?

Following are quite a few verses from the Word of God which both challenge and encourage us to give to the needy; even to the point of selling our possessions to enable us to give more.

Scriptures are from NIV unless noted otherwise

➤ **Jesus, the Son of God is speaking to us about giving.**

Luke 6:30-38 *Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.*

³² *"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them.³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that.³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*

³⁷ *"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.³⁸ **Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over,***

will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 12:33-34 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 14:12-14 Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Mat 25:34-40 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰ ***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.'***

➤ **Yahweh speaking to His people about the need to be generous**

Take note too of the blessings that will come to those who are generous – not that that should be our primary motivation for giving – but it is nevertheless an encouragement.

Deut 15:7-8 &10-11 If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. ⁸ Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need.... ¹⁰ Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. ¹¹ 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.

Psa 37:21 & 25-26 *The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously; ...* ²⁵ *I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.* ²⁶ *They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.*

Psa 112:5-9 (ESV) *It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.* ⁶ *For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever.* ⁷ *He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.* ⁸ *His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.* ⁹ *He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor.*

Prov 11:24-25 *One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.* ²⁵ *A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

Prov 19:17 *Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.* (Also **Prov 22:9: Prov 28:27**)

Isa 58:6-11 *"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter-- when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? ⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.*

"If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, ¹⁰ and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. ¹¹ The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

➤ **The apostle Paul's encouragement for believers to give generously**

Act 20:35 *In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

2Cor 9:6-9 Remember this: **Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.** ⁷ 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. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." (Also **1Tim 6:17-19**)

➤ Hebrews

Heb 6:10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

Heb 13:16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

➤ James

James 1:27 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 2:15-17 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, **faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.**

➤ John

1John 3:16-18 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ **If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?** ¹⁸ **Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.**

➤ Conclusion

The emphasis in God's Word on giving is certainly very clear. Through it all God is making it very plain that He wants us to know His heart; to recognise His concern for the poor and needy; the orphans and widows; the hungry and the oppressed; and to have the same compassion as He has and give to those in need – even to the point of selling our possessions to give to the poor.