

Motivational Gift of Giving

Romans 12:8 ... he who gives, gives with liberality

Definition:

Give: Impart by giving and supplying the needs of others

Liberality: Generously, simplicity, sincerity

Description:

The gift of giving is the special ability God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to contribute their material resources to the word of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness.

Different versions:

... if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond **Message Bible**

... the one who distributes his earthly possessions, in the sphere of an unostentatious simplicity **Wuest's Expanded translation**

... he who contributes, let him do it in simplicity and liberality **Amplified Version**

... he who gives, let him give freely **British**

People with this gift are usually:

- Charitable
- Accountable
- Responsible
- Conscientious
- Resourceful
- Generous
- Disciplined
- Provident

Bible Examples:

- ✚ Barnabas (Acts 4:36-37)
- ✚ Epaphras (Colossians 1:7; 4:12; Philemon 23)
- ✚ Matthew
- ✚ Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)
- ✚ Mary of Bethany (John 11:1-12:8)
- ✚ The poor widow (Mark 12:41-44)
- ✚ Dorcas (Acts 9:36)
- ✚ Cornelius (Acts 10:1-31)
- ✚ Lydia (Acts 16:14,40)
- ✚ Believers of Macedonia (2 Corinthians 8:1-7)
- ✚ Paul (Acts 20:34-35)

Illustration of an Old Testament giver (Abraham):

- He was faithful (James 2:23)
- He was generous (Genesis 13:9-10) and God made him wealthy (vs.12)
- He tithed even before the Law required it (Genesis 14:20)
- He always gave God the glory for his blessings
- He was wise with his money (Genesis 23:8-9)

Illustration of a modern day giver (R.G. LeTourneau):

- ✚ "The question is not how much of my money I give to God, but rather how much of God's money I keep"
- ✚ Turned 90% of the assets of the company over to his Christian foundation.
- ✚ He and his wife gave 90% of the income that was realized from the share of the business that was kept. He and his wife never lacked of anything.

Characteristics:

- Makes friends easily **Proverbs 19:6 ... And every man is a friend to one who gives gifts.**
- Desire to give secretly (Matthew 6:3 1-4)
- Tithing is foundational to them
- Able to motivate others to give. They know the power of giving (Philippians 4:15-19)
- Able to see resources (gift of faith) regardless of financial position
- Gives freely of money, possessions, time, energy, and love – investing themselves with his gift

Never has the attitude, "Let the wealthy give"

- Not motivated by emotional appeals - They desire to give by the leading of the Lord
- They are discerning – not gullible
- They want to feel apart of the ministry they are giving to
- They desire to give high quality
- They want ministries they support to be as effective as possible in spreading the gospel
- They trust their gift will answer a prayer
- Views hospitality as an opportunity to give
- Is concerned that the giving does not corrupt or create dependency
- They give from their excess but also out of their poverty (2 Corinthians 8:2)
- Often has the ability to "Make" money in business

Misuse/Dangers of gift:

- Hoarding money for self, giving sporadically instead of regularly
- Using giving to get out of other responsibilities
- Being proud of scale of giving, what he has to give, as if it were his own doing and not God's provision
- Measuring spiritual success by material assets
- Giving with a sense of duty and not with a radiant joy
- Giving a moral lecture and criticism along with the gifts
- Because he is not motivated by appeals can seem not generous to those who don't have gift
- Can appear stingy because of frugality

- Using gift to control people and ministries

As the giver grows into mature stages of giving he will give with absolutely no strings attached and no ulterior motives, because he is convinced that everything belongs to the Lord, and simply desires to be a channel through which the Lord can distribute His resources.

- Justify personal luxuries on the basis that he is generous with his money
- Feeling guilty about personal assets
- Rejecting all appeals, thus missing the mind of God on matters
- Giving to projects vs. people
- Causing people to look to them instead of God
- Waiting too long to give
- A giver may lack in hospitality. They give their money but may lack the hands-on showing of love that hospitality requires.
- Sometimes giving to provide a quick fix and an easy way out can hinder God from dealing with people when He is pressing them for change.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

How to grow in giving:

- Receive from the Lord spiritually. You won't be able to give unless you receive first
- Learn about the needs of those you are giving to so you can better evaluate the wisest use of your giving.
- Share your giving insights with others.
- You don't always have to give secretly, but give openly when appropriate in order to give glory to the Lord and encourage others.
- Give with the understanding the church's agenda is determined by leaders, not by the givers gift.
- Live your life to be a giver instead of taking. Treat someone else to a meal instead of waiting for them to pay.

Complimentary gifts: Hospitality and Intercession

People with this gift are needed in the church for:

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| • Stewardship committee | • Benevolence fund committee |
| • Financial Advisory board | • Contributing to special projects |
| • Investment leader | • Missions involvement |

Scriptures:

Psalms 37:26 He is ever merciful, and lends; And his descendants are blessed.

Psalms 112:5 A good man deals graciously and lends; He will guide his affairs with discretion.

Proverbs 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, And He will pay back what he has given.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with [his] hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

Acts 20:34-35 "Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. 35 "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

Philippians 4:15-19 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. 18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

**The giver acts like Jesus Christ
who did the work of salvation for us
and then gave it to us as a free gift.
The server behaves like the Holy Spirit
who chips in and helps us with our work and life**