

GENEROUS & SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Giving is the most mentioned spiritual discipline in the Bible.

"faith" and its variations is used 456 times in the NIV Bible.

"hope" is used 185. *"love"* is used 733.

"give" or *"giving"* is used 2,285 times.

Jesus talked a great deal about money and possessions.

- 16 of Jesus' 38 parables concentrate on how to handle money and possessions.
- 1 in 10 verses in the Gospels (288) deal directly with money and possessions.

Why is giving mentioned in the Bible more than faith, hope and love combined?

Because giving is a physical expression of faith, hope, and love!

Five reasons why to give generously and sacrificially.

1. Giving generously and sacrificially
REFLECTS GOD'S NATURE.

James 1:5 (rsv) God gives to all generously and ungrudgingly.

God owns everything and He has given to us everything we need.

1 Chronicles 29:14 (tlb) Everything we have has come from You Lord, and we can only give You what is Yours already.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (tlb) Everyone must make up his own mind as to how much he should give. Don't force anyone to give more than he really wants to, for cheerful givers are the ones God prizes. 8: God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more so that there will not only be enough for your own needs but plenty left over to give joyfully to others.

God is beyond a generous Giver. *God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son...John 3:16*



We can give without loving but we can't love without giving.

2. Giving generously and sacrificially **REVEALS THE RECEPTIVITY OF OUR HEART.**

Matthew 6:21 (ncv) Your heart will be wherever your treasure is.

Our heart reveals what we treasure most.

God doesn't need our money. But He does desire our heart!

Our generous and sacrificial giving pleases God because it is an act of worship to Him.

Romans 12:1 (ncv) So brothers and sisters, since God has shown us great mercy, I beg you to offer your lives (everything we are and have) as a living sacrifice to Him. Your offering must be only for God and pleasing to Him, which is the spiritual way for you to worship.

3. Giving generously and sacrificially **BREAKS THE GRIP OF MATERIALISM.**

One antidote to be released from the grip of materialism is giving generously and sacrificially!

Every time we give sacrificially, we dismantle the grip of materialism.

Jesus said, *"You cannot serve both God and money."*
Matthew 6:24

In other words, who or what is our priority in our life will determine what we value most.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 *"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*

Command them to be generous and willing to share. In this way they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

God wants us to enjoy our money and possessions, but He also wants us to generously share them.

4. Giving generously and sacrificially **STRENGTHENS OUR FAITH.**

Can you trust God with your finances and to trust God to keep His promises of provision?

*2 Corinthians 9:13a (ph) "Your giving **proves** the reality of your faith..."*

The Bible says giving proves how much **faith and trust** we have in God and His provision.

***Malachi 3:10** "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."*

Tithing is the Biblical 'benchmark' in our giving. Giving is not an obligation it's an opportunity to strengthen our faith.

5. Giving generously and sacrificially **MAKES US HAPPY**

It feels good to give, Jesus said, *"There is more happiness in giving than in receiving."* Acts 20:35 (gnb)

Our attitude in giving is more important than the amount we give.

*2 Corinthians 8:12 (tlb) "If you are really **eager** to give, then it isn't important **how much** you have to give."*

Our motive for giving matters more to God.

Is our motive and attitude to give generously to God and His purposes?

Or is our motive and attitude to hold tightly to our money and possessions to please ourselves?