

Successful Stewardship pt. 2 Acts 20:35

Acts 20:35 (NASB) "Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Luke 6:38 (NIV), "Give, and it will be given to you... For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

I. HOW GIVING BENEFITS MY LIFE

First: Giving demonstrates God's NATURE.

John 3:16 (NIV), "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..."

Second: Giving draws me CLOSER to God.

Matthew 6:21 (NIV) "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Third: Giving provides me victory over MATERIALISM.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV) "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!"

Third: Giving STRENGTHENS my faith.

Malachi 3:10 (NIV) "Bring your whole tithe to My storehouse. Test me in this' says the Lord, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you won't have room enough for it!"

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) "Without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

Proverbs 3:5 & 9 (NIV) "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and He will fill your barns to overflowing..."

Fourth: Giving is an INVESTMENT for eternity.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NASB) "Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed."

Fifth: Giving BLESSES me in return.

Proverbs 22:9 (NIV) "A generous man will himself be blessed."

Psalms 112:5-6 (NASB) "It is well with the man who is gracious and lends; He will maintain his cause in judgment. For he will never be shaken; The righteous will be remembered forever."

Proverbs 11:25 (NIV) "A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

Sixth: Giving makes me HAPPY.

1 Chronicles 29:9 (NIV) "The people rejoiced ... for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. David also rejoiced greatly."



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II. HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF GIVING

1. Give **WILLINGLY**

2 Corinthians 9:12 (NIV) "For if the willingness is there, your gift is acceptable according to what you have, not according to what you don't have."

Give **GENEROUSLY**

2 Corinthians 8:3-4 (NIV) "They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints."

3. Give **JOYFULLY**

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) "... For God loves a cheerful giver!"

4. Give **THANKFULLY**

Psalms 107:8-9 (NASB), Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness, and for His wonders to the sons of men! For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, and the hungry soul He has filled with what is good."

5. Give **EXPECTANTLY**

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV) "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows generously will reap generously."

Application:

On a scale of one to ten how do you rate your attitude toward your giving?

I'm an imitator of God	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I'm drawing closer to God	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I'm victorious over materialism	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
My faith is strengthened	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I'm laying up treasures in Heaven	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
My giving is returning blessing to my life	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
My giving just simply makes me happy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Do you get the most out of your giving?

Do you:

Give Willingly	___ Yes	___ No
Give Generously	___ Yes	___ No
Give Joyfully	___ Yes	___ No
Give Thankfully	___ Yes	___ No
Give Expectantly	___ Yes	___ No

What do you need to do in order that you might live generously and get the most out of your giving?

What will you do this week to practice the principles that you have learned this week?

Memory Verse: **Proverbs 3:5 (NIV) "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."**