

Giving That Feels Good

Take God At His Word – Part 1
Full Life Church – August 30, 2009
Pastor Dan Walker

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Acts 20:35b (NIV) Remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Giving Motivation #1: _____

Malachi 3:8-9 (NIV) "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Giving Motivation #2: _____

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV) But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

Giving Motivation #3: _____

2 Corinthians 8:13-14 (NIV) Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need.

Giving Motivation #4: _____

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (NIV) Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Giving Motivation #5: _____

2 Corinthians 8:5 (NIV) And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

Message Study Guide

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(Answer questions based on the message outline and Chapter 1 of *Taking God at His Word*)

1. Share a moment when you experienced or were impressed with the truth of Jesus' words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

2. Some Christians feel uncomfortable believing that God wants to bless and reward His children when they obey His Word. How do the following passages from both the Old and New Testaments illustrate that God rewards obedience?

Old Testament

Genesis 15:1

1 Samuel 26:23

Psalm 62:12

Proverbs 13:21

Jeremiah 32:19

New Testament

Matthew 6:33

1 Corinthians 3:8

1 Corinthians 9:23

Galatians 6:6-7

Philemon 6

Hebrews 11:6

3. Read the following passages and identify the general theme of each one.

Joshua 1:8

Malachi 3:9-11

Proverbs 3:9-10

Luke 6:38

4. God's Word teaches that we should "give to get to give again." (See page 13.) Identify at least one time when you experienced this blessing. What can you do to make this teaching a greater reality in your life?

5. Read the section on receiving "in kind" blessings from God (page 17) and list as many examples of this teaching as you can. Can you think of any biblical exceptions to this principle?