

12-13-2023

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Psalm 136:1 (nkjv)

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His mercy endures forever. (nlt) His faithful love endures forever.

Psalm 34:8 (kjv)

Oh taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. (nlt) Oh the joys of those who take refuge in him!

How to Give a Good Gift:

Love Someone, Encourage Someone with the Spirit of Christ:

Share the good news of Christ! Be sensitive and discerning. (Let the Lord be your guide)

2 Corinthians 9:7 (kjv)

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

(amp) Let each one give (*thoughtfully and with purpose*) just as he has decided in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (*and delights in the one whose heart is in his gift.*)

Grudgingly: reluctantly or unwillingly; not generously or with a good will. Compulsion: to use force or pressure to make someone do something.

Colossians 3:23-24 (nlt)

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. (24) Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.

WWJD: What would Jesus Do? He gives us two principles for generosity:

(1) Our blessings will be based on our willingness to bless others and (2) our measure of treating, forgiving, and judging others will be the bases used for how we are treated, forgiven, and judged by others and by God.

Luke 6:38 (niv)

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.

Good: praiseworthy, excellent, beautiful, surpassing

Shaken: a motion produced by an agitation, causing the contents to be brought together with force

Running over: to pour out beyond

Note: If we live to give, God will see to it that we receive, but if we live only to get, God will see to it that we lose. This principle applies not only to our giving of money, but also to the giving of ourselves in ministry to others.

Before You Give:

Prepare your heart to give as Paul did: he was (**Acts 18:5 kjv**) pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. (amp) He devoted himself completely to the work of the Lord.

Pray and ask God to help you be a blessing to others, that He might be glorified, and the body of Christ will be edified.

God's love must permeate our motives that everything we do is for His glory.

His Love is the gift that keeps on giving.

As kingdom builders, whatever we do in word or deed, our actions should represent Christ at all times.

Romans 14:19 (niv)

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace, and mutual edification.

Philippians 2:3 (nkjv)

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind, let each esteem others better than himself.

The Perfect Gift: God's love

His love is endless, selfless, and always seeking to rescue the lost.

This gift is perpetual, year round, continual and never out of season, it compliments and further demonstrates Jesus' ministry and love for His people:

John 3:16 (kjv) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8 (niv) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 15:13 (kjv) Greater love hath no man (**amp**-nor stronger commitment) than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

James 1:17 (kjv)

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. (He is perfect and never changes.)

Proverbs 84:11 (nlt)

For the Lord God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.

There are many things money just cannot buy:

Eternal Life, Grace, Righteousness, love, peace, joy, hope and so much more!!

Keep Your Song:

"Jesus Is the Light of the World" by the Florida Mass Choir , *"I Worship You in the Spirit"* by Shekinah Glory Ministries