

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **GIVING**

"One must be poor to know the luxury of giving." – George Eliot, *Middlemarch*

"You can't out give God." – Anonymous

"Who gives to me teaches me to give." – Dutch Proverb

"You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving." – Robert Louis Stevenson

"Happiness...consists in giving, and in serving others." – Henry Drummond

Although not recorded in the Gospel accounts, Luke does reveal to us the statement of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). During His ministry, we also have recorded, "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:38).

In the season of giving and receiving gifts, how much do we really contemplate in our gifts to God; or for those who are in need? Does not the apostle John warn, "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? (1 John 3:17).

So many do not know the joy that comes from giving. If we find it such a disappointment, then God doesn't want our gift. He wants us to give from a loving heart. "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).

Isn't it ironic that people can give gifts to others, but when it comes to giving to God, they are reluctant? Yet, God is the one that provides everything that we have and enjoy!

As you might surmise, the interest is more behind the practice of giving. The heart becomes the key or focal point.

If you truly want to be humbled, read about the Macedonians in 2 Cor. 8. They were people in poverty who found it in their hearts to even give beyond their means.

People poke fun at the Charles Dicken's character Ebenezer Scrooge. The stingy old miser who fought to part with his money, who learned that there is more to life than money and possessions. Remember, you can't take anything you have with you when you die. All of us will be on equal monetary footing in the judgment.

Learn to know the joy of giving, not just once a year, but throughout the year. The spiritual heart failure comes when we refuse to part with our material blessings (cf. Col. 3:1-2).