

Giving in Worship

The Christian life is filled with challenges (Matt. 6:33; Rom. 12:1-2; Luke 9:23-27). We are constantly reminded to be on guard for those things which get in the way of our acceptable service to God. But in each of these challenges there is an assurance of blessings from God. It is and has always been God's desire to bless His people. Blessings are connected to each and every commandment and requirement from God.

One of the most difficult subjects in all the Bible is **giving in worship**. Most of us do not like to speak on this subject. However it is an intricate part of our worship. God has challenged us to give financially to support His work (1 Cor. 16:1-2; Gal. 6:6; Phil. 4:16; 1 Cor. 9:14; James 1:27). It is by our giving that the church is able to do God's bidding. Without your financial support the work could not continue. Therefore we will discuss this delicate topic. Let us notice some things in the area of "Giving In Worship."

1. What Is God's Purpose for Our Giving? We need to keep in mind at all times that God's desire is to bless us (Mal. 3:10; 2 Cor. 9:6-9). There are warnings for those who are not careful in this matter (Mal. 1:6-8). Giving is a way of expressing our love and gratitude to God. He gave His all for us (John 3:16; 2 Cor. 8:8-9, 24). Also our giving shows our desire to support the local work. Without financial support the work of the church is not accomplished. The church cannot survive without financial support from its members.

2. How Does God Want Us to Determine Our Giving? According to 2 Corinthians 9:5-7 there are some things for which we must be careful. These include: covetousness, selfishness, giving grudgingly, of necessity, and haphazard giving. God wants us to **plan** our giving. How is this to be done? (1) As He prospers us (1 Cor. 16:2; James 1:17); (2) According to our ability (Acts 11:29; 2 Cor. 8:12); (3) Bountifully (2 Cor. 9:6; Mal. 1:13); (4) Cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7; 8:11-12); and (5) with love (2 Cor. 8:8, 24; 1 John 3:17). Before we "lay by in store" we should give serious thought to our contributions.

3. Some Things Which Can Help Improve Our Attitude Towards Giving. (1) We are laying up treasures in heaven (Mat. 6:19-21; Col. 3:1-2); (2) Remember what God has done for us (Psa. 116:12; 2 Cor. 8:9; 1 Tim. 6:17); (3) Know that materialism is often deceitful and hurtful (1 Tim. 6:9-10; Luke 12:15); (4) Keep in mind that our giving reflects the extent of giving oneself to God (Matt. 6:19-33); and (5) If we are not careful we will be robbing from God (Mal. 3:8-9).

Remember, it is only when we give properly the church can do its work.

- Author Unknown - (Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL)

Giving Is A Privilege

Giving is life's greatest privilege! It is also an acid test of real maturity. God, the truly perfect personality, set the eternal example of giving by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. He gave to us because He loves us, and here is the key to the privilege of giving. Love is always the motivation and mainspring of giving. Giving is a privilege because it involves love. It is a privilege to give to those who are the objects of our affections. We shower our children, parents and other loved ones through the medium of giving. In the very same sense, we express our love to God by giving — not merely our money, but all that we are. This is what motivated Jesus to say, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The Lord recognized that the truly mature persons enjoy and benefit from the privilege of giving to those whom they truly love. The conclusion is obvious: If giving for you is not a privilege, it reflects not only upon your spiritual maturity, but upon the genuineness of your love for God. For giving is life's greatest privilege!

- Author Unknown - (Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL)

God will never be outdone in generosity.

News & Notes

GOSPEL MEETING: Nov. 13-18, at Pennsboro with Phil Grear.

WV CHRISTIAN RENEWALS: The group rate is \$8 per year for 12 issues.

Sign up by **Sunday, Nov. 20th** on the sheet on the desk in the foyer. Give your money to one of the Elders or to Rico.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY RESUMES: Next Tuesday, Nov. 15th, 7:00 p.m.

DIRECTORY PHOTO SESSION: Next Saturday, Nov. 19th, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Building. **FREE - no sales, just pictures.** Remember and show up for your appointment time.

PANTRY: Beets.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: Jim Hadley, Linda Parkes, Beulah Walker, Mike West, Barbara DeLong, Claudette Miller, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox, Peppercorn Suites, Chester:** David McCoy. **Weston, WV:** Rick Beck.

Exercising Our Faith

It is a known fact that during the ministry of Jesus on earth, there were varying degrees of faith in those who came to Him. Consider the following three examples. In Mark 9:17-24, Jesus cast out a mute spirit from a son whose father wavered between faith and doubt. In Mark 1:40-45, He healed a leper who knew He could heal but was not sure He would. In Luke 7:1-10, our Lord healed the servant of a centurion who was so sure of the outcome that he asked Jesus merely to speak the word from afar.

As you can see from these three examples, not all people exercise the same degree of faith. In our day, not all Christians exercise the same degree of faith either. Some people seem to think their problems are too big for God to solve. Others are sure that God is all-powerful, but they are not confident that He will do what is best for them. Still others affirm, "I know what God can do, and I'll trust Him to do what He has promised." Such attitudes range from a weak and tentative faith to a firm confidence that takes God at His word and believes He is loving, cares and is good.

What does God want from us as His children? His ultimate goal for each of us, when it comes to our faith, is that we may know and experience the fullness of His ongoing fellowship. Your faith will grow and be more effective when you fully recognize the greatness of your Father God, His Son Jesus Christ and God the Holy Spirit. For further study, read all three gospel accounts (Mark 9:17-24; 1:40-45; Luke 7:1-10) and ask the question, "What kind of faith do I have — strong, weak or wavering between faith and doubt?"

- David Myers, *Gospel Gazette Online* -



Turkey Time
Remember:
to bring a turkey to church!