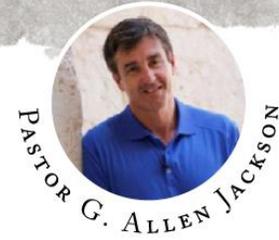


# The Power of Giving

## Value Awareness

Intend



2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NIV®)

<sup>7</sup> Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And **God is able** to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Proverbs 11:25 (NIV®)

<sup>25</sup> A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

## I. Why So Important?

Psalms 8:4-6 (NIV®)

<sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? <sup>5</sup> You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup> You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:

### A. You are of great value to God

John 3:16-17 (NIV®)

<sup>16</sup> "For **God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son**, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Romans 5:8 (NIV®)

<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates **his own love for us in this**: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 4:25 (NIV®)

<sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

### B. Jesus' choices demonstrate your value

Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV®)

<sup>5</sup> Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

John 15:13 (NIV®)

<sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

### C. Value expressed in exchange/gift

Romans 8:32 (NIV®)

<sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but **gave him up for us all**—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:38-39 (NIV®)

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## II. How We Value God

2 Samuel 24:24 (NASB®)

<sup>24</sup> However, the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy *it* from you for a price, for **I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God which cost me nothing.**" So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

❖ Easy to be generous with what you do not value highly

### A. Our giving to God reflects value

Mark 12:41-44 (NIV®)

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. <sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "**I tell you the truth**, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on."

Exodus 12:5 (NIV®)

<sup>5</sup> The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats.

### B. When value declines

Malachi 1:13-14 (NIV®)

<sup>13</sup> And you say, "**What a burden!**" and you sniff at it contemptuously," says the LORD Almighty. "When you bring injured, crippled or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?" says the LORD. <sup>14</sup> "Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king," says the LORD Almighty, "and my name is to be feared among the nations.

Isaiah 43:22-23 (NASB®)

<sup>22</sup> "Yet you have not called on Me, O Jacob; But **you have become weary of Me, O Israel.** <sup>23</sup> "You have not brought to Me the sheep of your burnt offerings, Nor have you honored Me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, nor wearied you with incense.

### C. Recipients of something precious

1 Peter 1:18-20 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with **the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect**. <sup>20</sup> He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Forgive me for the times I have not given my best to You. You are worthy of all glory and honor and praise. You have showered my life with blessings and watched over me in grace. I will give to You the honor You are due, I will bring my best to You—rejoicing in Your great provision for me. Holy Spirit grant me an awareness of God's love that I may serve Him without reservation, in Jesus' name, amen.

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