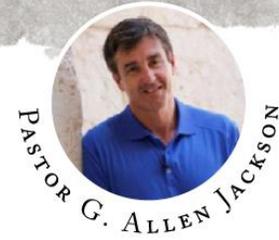


The Power of Giving

Great Expectations

Intend



2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NIV®)

⁷ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ 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®)

²⁵ A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

I. Warnings

Luke 12:15 (NIV®)

¹⁵ Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV®)

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

II. Gratitude

1 Chronicles 16:8-9 (NIV®)

⁸ Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. ⁹ Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

Philippians 4:6 (NIV®)

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

III. Generosity

A. Foundations of Generosity

1. Integrity

Proverbs 11:1 (NIV®)

¹ The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.

Psalm 37:37 (NIV®)

³⁷ Consider the blameless, observe the upright; there is a future for the man of peace.

2. Work

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NIV®)

¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

Genesis 2:2 (NIV®)

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV®)

⁸ If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

3. Perseverance

Galatians 6:9 (NIV®)

⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

James 1:2-4 (NIV®)

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

B. In Contrast

1 Timothy 5:5-6 (NIV®)

⁵ The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. ⁶ But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.

IV. Expectation

Deuteronomy 28:11-13 (NIV®)

¹¹ The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity--in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground--in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you. ¹² The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. ¹³ The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom.

Proverbs 10:22 (NIV®)

²² The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it.

Elijah

1 Kings 17:7-14 (NIV®)

⁷ Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹ "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." ¹² "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread--only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die." ¹³ Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son." ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: "The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land."

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, every good and perfect gift comes from you. I rejoice in Your great mercy and kindness. Thank You for Your provision for my life. No good thing is withheld from those who love You. I turn my heart to You in thanksgiving. I trust You for complete freedom. The blood of Jesus Christ has cleansed me from the curse of sin, I am free, in Jesus' name, amen!

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