

# It is more Blessed to give than to Receive

"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup> I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. <sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. <sup>35</sup> In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " Acts 20:32

The apostle is an example to all of us. In this passage he refers to

Give to our companions  
Give ourselves to work hard  
Give to the weak

## What can we give?

Some can give money  
Some can give food  
Some can give a drink  
Some can give clothing  
Some can give a pair of shoes  
We can all give time  
We can all give love  
We can all give attention  
We can all give a smile  
We can all give a hand to help someone on his way  
We can all give a hand to lift someone up when he or she falls  
We can all give the good news of Salvation  
We can all show the Way to forgiveness

## What God's Word says about giving:

"Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you." Matthew 5:42

"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:2-4

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." Matthew 19:21

"Caesar's," they replied. Then He said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Matthew 22:21

"Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:30-31

## **The Lord is requesting our heart**

"My son give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways," Proverbs 23:26

God is not talking here about the human heart even though it is interesting to study about the human heart that God has put inside of us..

- Your heart is about the same size as your fist.
- An average adult body contains about five quarts of blood.
- All the blood vessels in the body joined end to end would stretch 62,000 miles or two and a half times around the earth.
- The heart circulates the body's blood supply about 1,000 times each day.
- The heart pumps the equivalent of 5,000 to 6,000 quarts of blood each day.



### **The Hebrew word for HEART**

To the ancient Hebrews the heart was the mind including all thoughts including emotions. When we are told to love God with all our heart (Deuteronomy 6:5) it is not speaking of an emotional love but to keep our emotions and all our thoughts working for him. The first picture in this Hebrew word is a shepherd staff and represents authority as the shepherd has authority over his flock. The second letter is the picture of the floor plan of the nomadic tent and represents the idea of being inside as the family resides within the tent. When combined they mean "the authority within".

God is asking that we submit all the authority within to Him. The authority within is our will power. God wants to be in charge of our lives so He is asking us to give our heart to Him. This is a voluntary decision of all of us.

Then the Lord adds "and let your eyes keep to my ways". So our heart is given to Him and now belongs to Him and then our eyes must keep His ways. With our eyes we read God's Word and thus we know His ways.

"Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways." Psalm 128:1

"The LORD your God requires: Walk in His ways, and keep His decrees and commands, His laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go" 1 Kings 2:3