

## The Generous Life The Blessing of Giving

Reading: [Matthew 5:13-16](#)

### Introduction

- Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood and or platelets.
  - Blood donations are used for patients in need of surgery, cancer treatment and transfusions for blood loss from traumatic injuries.
  - You may not be able, or may not want to donate blood, but it is certain that people need it and it is in short supply, especially over the past couple of years
- America is apparently a generous country. We are donating to a variety of charitable organizations. The top three categories deal with health, human services & education. Religious organizations come in right behind those, followed by environmental causes.
- Giving is not always about money, but it is always a blessing to give.
- Last year this month I spent time talking about being thankful, this year I want to spend some time encouraging us to be givers.
- So, today we look at the idea of how it is a blessing to be a giver.

### 1. Giving Is A Blessing To The Receiver

[Luke 10:30-36](#) The Good Samaritan:

- The man who had been beaten certainly benefitted from the generosity of the Good Samaritan
- All whom Jesus healed benefited from His generosity.
- This is pretty obvious:
  - Giving blesses those who receive.
  - Anytime there is a giver, there is a receiver.

### 2. Giving Is A Blessing To The Giver

[Proverbs 11:25](#) The generous soul will be made **rich**, And he who waters will also **be watered** himself.

[2 Corinthians 9:6-8](#) But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also **reap sparingly**, and he who sows bountifully will also **reap bountifully**. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make **all grace** abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have **an abundance for every good work**.

[Galatians 6:9](#) And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season **we shall reap** if we do not lose heart.

- Based on these verses:
  - We are richer; it's true. The results of a study to test if it's better to give than to receive:

▪ Greater satisfaction with life	▪ A more positive outlook
▪ More friends	▪ Better physical and mental health
▪ Stronger relationships with others	▪ Satisfaction with what you have
▪ Happier with their careers	▪ Higher self-esteem

- We reap not only what we sow, but how we sow. if we sow big we will also be big receivers. –I heard someone say, “You can’t outgive God.”
- I don’t know how many times I have done something good for someone else and felt like I was blessed more than they were.
- We obtain grace. When we are generous, we are more likely to obtain grace from others. It may not always happen, but if you’re a selfish, greedy person, people will certainly respond in kind

### 3. Giving is a Blessing to the World

- When we are a blessing to others word gets around.

[Matthew 5:13-16](#)

- You are the salt of the earth
- You are the light of the world
- **Churches of Christ: Disaster Relief Effort (Liberty Supports this)**
  - 10/27/21 Fredericktown, Missouri Tornado Survivors.
  - 8/22-9/29 NOLA East Church in New Orleans Hurricane Ida New Jersey, Tennessee
  - 6/21/21 Brewton, AL Tornado/Tropical Storm Claudette
  - 5/20/21 Lake Charles, LA Flash Flood
  - 3/31/21 Nashville Flood Victims
  - 3/27/21 Alabama & Georgia Tornados
  - 3/3-3/13 Kentucky Flood Victims
  - 2/26/21 Texas & Georgia Devastated by Winter Storm
  - 1/27-2/3 Alabama Tornado Survivors
  - The world sees these things and sometimes come to God
  - As Jesus said in [Matthew 5:13-16](#), if we do not let our light shine, or if we lose our saltiness, then we’re good for nothing, or we have failed our purpose.
- Bringing the message of the cross to the world is the greatest gift
  - We can give that to anyone who will listen
  - Jesus said, [Mk. 16:16](#), whoever believes it and is baptized will be saved, whoever does not believe it will be condemned.
  - The gospel, [Romans 3:23](#), is about how we have sinned and come short of the glory of God
  - The Gospel. [Romans 5:8](#), is His love for us, Jesus died for our sins and by the power of God, rose from the grave.
  - When we are baptized, we relive that gospel
- [Romans 6:3-4](#) Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
- That new life begins the process of being a light for the world, being a giver just like Jesus is. When we do, we will receive the honor of being like Him and be rewarded for it now and forever.