

November 2023

# FULLNESS

Magazine Online

# Giving

## FEATURE ARTICLE: Generous Giving

By Ray Walter

### Are You Willing to Give Jesus Everything?

By Jeff Glass

### Giving Because God Gave First

By Sue Tubbs

### The Ministry of Giving

By Dan Layne

### It's a Matter of the Heart

By Robin Robinson Bohlin



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## Generous Giving

by Ray Walter

Ray recounts how his one act of giving opened a door of personal ministry alliance with Ras and Fullness

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Ras and  
Beverly Robinson

FOUNDERS of  
Fullness Magazine



# Editor's Letter

## Giving



As we draw to the close of our second year of publishing Fullness Magazine Online, our editorial board, staff and contributors want to thank our subscribers and those who have donated to help us continue to provide the best reading and ministry experience possible. Our 2022 November-December Issue was on Thanksgiving, and it is fitting that we conclude this year addressing in this issue, "Giving" because giving is an aspect of worship from a grateful heart. "I will enter His courts with thanksgiving in my heart; I will enter his courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4). There are similar themes expressed in most of the articles represented in this issue as each writer covers ideas expressed on giving in the scriptures, such as the joy and blessings received by giving. These include the tithe, offerings, acts of kindness, the necessity of hearing the voice of Holy Spirit and responding in obedience when He tells you to give, no matter what the amount, and how generosity and freely giving changes one's heart towards God. Using scripture and personal examples, each writer knits a compelling storyline of the importance of giving.

Our feature writer is Ray Walter. Ray is a successful business owner who has supported Fullness in Christ Ministry for years. In his article "Generous Giving" Ray recounts how his one act of giving opened a door of personal ministry alliance with Ras and Fullness. "My introduction to the Fullness in Christ Family started over 20 years ago with a small act of giving. "While I was reading the daily devotion of 'What the Lord is Saying Today,' Ras Robinson mentioned in the summary how he was going to give away his laptop to a pastor in the Philippines



who needed a computer. As soon as I read those words, I was so overwhelmed with compassion that I decided to call Dell computers that day to have a brand new laptop shipped to Ras as a replacement. That one gift started our relationship with the wonderful Fullness in Christ family, and it was also the beginning of a new Kingdom alignment..." Ray testifies that "While I was hiking on a hillside and praying when the Lord spoke to my heart and said, 'Empty your coffers!'" Ray says, "The Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and said: 'Be ready to give today.' That same day, I casually struck up a conversation with a nice man in front of a grocery store while shopping for the family. It turned out he and his wife had pastored a spirit-filled church for many years and God was calling them to the mission field full-time, and they needed funds. It's worth mentioning he did not ask me for a donation. While we were talking, I knew this was the person that the Holy Spirit was talking about when He said, 'Be ready to give.'"

Jeff Glass, a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and successful business man, in his article, "Are You Willing to Give Jesus Everything?", uses his personal experiences that brought him to a complete surrender to God through his willingness to be obedient to God's direction. His journey began when he asked the Lord to remove any hinderance in his life that might be standing in the way of his complete surrender to Him. The process began



through Psalm 139:23-24 which says, "Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my anxious thoughts and see if there is any hurtful way in me and lead me in the everlasting way." Having prayed this 'prayer' before, he now earnestly sought the Lord to deal with him. Jeff knew that he was restrained in his giving, so God started instructing him how to give. Instead of giving \$100 to an out-of-work friend with four children, God told him to give \$1,000 because it was the amount needed. He goes on to recount the joy he feels when he gives money to perfect strangers through deeds of kindness.

The next article entitled "Giving Because God Gave First" is different because it is written in the form of an interview.



Robin Bohlin interviewed Sue Tubbs, who she considers as a personal mentor regarding faith and finances. Sue recounts how she learned to give at the age of four because she learned to give from her "parents who would support many people in need and even helped out the local government when they were out of funds."

Sue said that "**Giving is the most wonderful thing I could do for God.**" She goes on to share many stories of being blessed by obeying God's voice, which she maintains includes the giving of the tithe.

Robin concludes the interview by saying, "When the Word of God says that **'To obey is better than sacrifice'** in 1 Samuel 15:22, greater words could not be true. You honestly cannot out give God. . . . He wants you to have enough for yourself and a surplus to give. I like to say it this way: We are blessed to be a blessing."

Dan Layne, who began his pastoral ministry in 1972 and is currently the pastor of Purdon Community Church in Purdon, Texas, structures his article around the Purpose, Priority and Promise of the ministry of giving. Drawing upon the building of the Tabernacle in the wilderness, Dan quotes a portion of Exodus 36, "so many gifts kept coming in until the craftsmen told Moses that they had more than enough materials to complete the job. So, Moses sent a message throughout the camp that they had given more than enough and to stop bringing their contributions." He asserts, "Most church leaders today have not had that experience because usually there is not enough in the church treasury to meet all the needs!" He goes on to state "We have already seen in the scripture in Proverbs 3:9-10 that when we put the Lord first in our ministry of giving, it sets in motion a reciprocity of return. Let me state here that we



shouldn't only give material things, but our time and talent, as well. Jesus is quoted as saying that it is more blessed to give than receive but no farmer would plant seed without expecting a harvest (2 Corinthians 9:6-10)"

Robin Bohlin, co-pastor and worship leader at Fullness in Christ Church (She is also the publisher of this magazine), drives home the foundation of giving in her article "It's a Matter of the Heart" In her epigraph she quotes Winston Churchill who said, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." She maintains "When we choose giving over getting, we become more like our Heavenly Father. As Believers our lifestyle should be reflective of God. This has been a demonstrative value in Robin's life that our congregation can attest, as well as many others. She goes on to recount numerous times she and Jonas have given money away including supporting children in the Philippines. Story after story, she challenges people to experience the joy and prosperity of tithing. She concludes by saying, "It truly is more blessed to give than receive. God knows the excitement in giving. He wants your life to be fun and full of peace and the only way this can happen is to do what He says" Giving is a matter of the heart.



Jennifer in her "Declaring the Truth" column explores the love, generosity and the goodness of God. She states, "God's goodness conveys His generosity. He has an infinite generous attitude toward us. By nature, He longs to bring us joy and blessings. Goodness is a core quality of our Daddy God. As you get into a place where you are receiving His love and goodness, begin to give it out to others." She goes on to say, "Freely you have been given, freely give. You are My poster child for My goodness and love. People will look at you and want what you have. Be ready to share it and give it away freely. Freely I have given it to you, freely give it away." She concludes her column sharing some prophetic words she has received.



Budd Rodger's "The Sheperd's Voice" column, called "How Are Your Hinges and Who Has The Key?" connects our giving to the Hebrew prophecy of this year 5784, year of "the open door". He states, "Using the metaphor of a hinge, he suggests, "giving is like a hinge. In other words, the way we give of whatever it is we are giving, it is a hinge for a door to open or close." He also states, "To be a blessing is to literally give something, whether they are words of affirmation, choices, material substance, love and affection, etc.... It is all basically giving. You know the truth of it is this: the more times we give, the more times we sow into the spiritual ground means the more harvests we receive."



Blessings,

Tom



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# Generous Giving

by Ray Walter

*If you help the poor, you are lending to the LORD— and He will repay you!”*

**(Proverbs 19:17)**

There is a saying, “If God can get it through us, He can get it to us”. My introduction to the Fullness in Christ Family all started over 20 years ago with a small act of giving. One day while I was reading the daily devotion of “What the Lord is Saying Today,” Ras Robinson mentioned in the summary how he was going to give away his laptop to a pastor in the Philippines who needed a computer. As soon as I read those words, I was so overwhelmed with compassion that I decided to call Dell computers that day to have a brand new laptop shipped to Ras as a replacement.

That one gift started our relationship with the wonderful Fullness in Christ family, and it was also the beginning of a new Kingdom alignment that would last for all of eternity as we became partners in the vision for the Philippines and other missions. The laptop was not an expensive gift, but it was a simple act of obedience that brought our families together. Our connection to Fullness in Christ has been a true blessing in so many ways. Their daily prophetic emails, many times, have been the daily strength and confirmations we needed to get through difficult times. Truly the blessings we have received from this ministry and family have paid us dividends in many ways. It really is more blessed to give than it is to receive.

Before I dive into some of the many benefits we enjoy when we step out in faith to give to the Kingdom, I feel led to share a story with you about my own journey of learning to discern and follow the leadings of God. One day, when I was spending time apart with the Lord, I heard a statement from Him that I will never forget. It was something that challenged me to surrender my security for obedience regarding the handling of money. I was hiking on a hillside and praying when the Lord spoke to my heart and said, “Empty your coffers!” Now that was never a word that I would use, so I knew it had to be God. But just to make sure I was not imagining things, I asked for a confirmation, and He said it again, “Empty your coffers!” I had a sinking feeling that God was talking about some funds I had set aside and saved up in a business account. This account was created after we experienced many years of financial woes and losses. After wrestling in my own heart about this statement, I knew God was calling me to a higher place of obedience, and it was making me very uncomfortable.

For the record, the meaning of “coffers” in a business sense is “the money that an organization has stored away in its bank accounts and is available to spend.” To give you a little background, I was still experiencing some “post-traumatic stress” over what happened to our business during and following the 2008 crisis, and I felt that I needed to hedge against that from happening again. Of course, it’s always good wisdom to be good

stewards of our finances by saving for a rainy day; however, I wondered if I was placing a little too much of my trust in this savings account. Although it took time, our business was recovering quite well from the crisis; however, we were still chipping away monthly to satisfy leftover debts. There were also a few invoices that our debtors had graciously placed on hold for us during the season when we could not pay them.

After God's instructions to *"empty my coffers"*, I sat down with my bookkeeper to re-evaluate. I was relieved when I realized that we had nearly enough money to pay off these debts in full. However, I was quite nervous about relinquishing my safety net. Even so, we began mailing out final payments even if a payment plan had been in place. It felt so good and freeing to have these burdens erased even though our safety net was becoming quite small. During this process, I considered an account with a vendor that had been on hold amounting to a little over \$20,000. So, I decided to email the owner of that business. We'll call her CeCe for the sake of confidentiality. She was pleasantly surprised to hear from me. Some years prior, she had graciously placed our account on hold, believing that we would make good on our account as our business recovered. After a few back-and-forth emails, she was open to decreasing the balance to settle and seemed quite happy to do so. I appreciated her flexibility and told her I would get back to her to make our final payment.

However, a little later I felt a nudge to pray about this agreement before finalizing any numbers. Suddenly, I didn't have so much peace about the discount. I felt led to pray and ask God about this matter to make sure we would settle things well by His perspective. As I sought Him and immediately after I prayed, He said: "Pay the full amount." I thought surely God must not have seen our emails agreeing to a discounted amount, and she seemed like she was ready to settle for as much as 50% or 60% of the balance. So, I sort of asked him again, and He said the same thing in the same way: "Pay the full amount." Shortly after this word from God, a good friend of mine also confirmed this word, and when I finally yielded in agreement, I was flooded with peace and then joy.

I realized that I could either lean on my own understanding and do it my way, or trust God and do it His way. As I type these words, it reminds me of what happened to Ananias and Sapphira when they held back some of the proceeds from the church. Not that I was going to fall dead if I did it my way, but God was inviting me into a process of learning to trust Him with everything and allowing Him to direct my paths even when it did not make sense. He wants all our obedience not half-hearted obedience. I believe that was the overall lesson of Ananias and Sapphira- to be "all-in" with God.

Soon afterwards I met with CeCe and was delighted to share how God had nudged me to seek Him. And upon asking for His direction, He spoke to me and instructed me to pay a different amount than we had agreed to. She looked curious and then I asked her to open the envelope containing the check. She gasped and was very pleasantly surprised. I was able to share with CeCe that God loved her so much that He wanted her to have the full amount that was due. During our meeting, I could sense a joy from our Father that I was able to plant those seeds on His behalf. And there was such a blessing in seeing CeCe's joy of the unexpected funds. As we conversed, I felt led to confess my prior wrestling with the whole idea, but I knew it was the right thing to do. CeCe transparently shared in return that she really needed those funds to help with a budgeting shortfall for home renovations, and the sweet surprise eliminated a bit of stress. The timing of this check for her was perfect, and the entire experience continues to remind us years later of the joys and blessings that come to us all when we say "yes" to the "leadings" of God. Yes, we love how He faithfully makes all things work together for the good of those who love Him... (Romans 8:28).

Through this process, I gained a deeper understanding of how fulfilling our debts and promises made to others is a form of loving our neighbors and is an extension of giving. The scripture even says...

***"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law." (Romans 13:8)***

Not only did God prompt us to become freer of our debts, but He also blessed others with unexpected funds in the process.

Now, you might be thinking, "What does this testimony have to do with giving to the Kingdom?" I wanted to share this story with you as the foundation of what I want to share next. When it comes to the subject of money, many of us tend to shift in our seats a little. We might experience this whenever a church or a missionary asks for tithes and offerings. Many times, we desire to give, but the subject of money hits close to home. We may not want to feel this way, but many times money is a form of security for us. It takes money to pay the bills, pay the rent or mortgage, send kids to college, keep a business running, etc.

These are all our daily necessities, and of course, there is nothing wrong with these things, but God wants us to learn to trust Him with everything (even our daily necessities), so that we can truly enjoy His blessings without any fear or anxiety. This is why the scripture says,

***"So, do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"***

***For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”***  
**(Matthew 6:31-33)**

It's all about trust.

When we give to God, we are not putting ourselves into more lack or debt. Rather, we are opening the way for God to bless us in ways that we could never do ourselves and more than we ever dreamed possible. If we simply knew how big God's shovel is, then we wouldn't worry about digging ourselves into holes by obeying Him, especially with our giving.

Let's consider R.G. LeTourneau, arguably one of the most successful businessmen of the 20th century. He made millions in his lifetime as an inventor and business owner, but he gladly gave 90% of his income back to God. R.G. once said, "I shovel out the money, and God shovels it back, but God has a bigger shovel." When we give to the Kingdom, we never outgive God. His shovel is always bigger.

So, how about you? Is God challenging you to give generously in such a way that it might make you a little uncomfortable? When Moses asked God, "how?" The Lord said to Moses, "What's in your hand?" Moses had a staff in his hand. That staff was later used in the process of releasing the Israelites from bondage.

What bondage does God want to release us from? It always starts with taking the first step of faith by being faithful to what's in our hand. In other words, what's in our possession right now that we can give? For the widow there were only 2 coins. For Zacchaeus, it was half of his possessions to the poor. It's not the amount we give, it's the heart behind the giving that matters. We are not to give out of reluctance or pressure, but from a heart of obedience and trust. God loves a cheerful giver. And there is so much joy in giving! God desires all our heart, so we can joyfully obey him in the little things as well as in the big.



I remember one morning when I read a certain devotional by the name of "Come Away My Beloved". There was a chapter called: "*The Economy of the Kingdom.*" As I read it that day, I could feel God's tangible presence so inspired by the Holy Spirit. I'll share it below. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you personally as you read these words for yourself.

### **The Economy of the Kingdom**

***"For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38)***

*Bring Me all tithes, and I will open the gates of heaven and pour down upon you a fourfold blessing. Yes, I will bless you in the grace of giving, and I will bless you with Joy. You shall open the door of ministry for My servants, and you shall partake of the fruits that will come as a result.*

*You will never give to Me and become the poorer for it. In exchange for your small gifts, you shall be given My boundless riches. Through the contribution that comes from a willing heart, I will be freed to bestow the abundance of heaven, treasures you could never purchase from the world.*

*But see that you give joyfully – for God delights in a cheerful giver – otherwise you grieve the Spirit, for has He not given to you without measure? As you have received freely (for God always has a generous heart), you are required to give without grudging, not mindful of any sacrifice.*

*Your giving seems sacrificial only when viewed in the light of what other use you could have made of the money. Give freely to the work of my Kingdom, and I will add to you the things that you need.*

*Be My agents of righteousness and goodwill, and I will prove Myself to you as your loving Heavenly Father, supplying your needs out of the riches of My own treasury – and this, too, will be an exciting adventure in your walk in the Spirit.*

*Indeed, you shall see in what miraculous ways I will care for your needs, and even in the process of doing this I will further the Kingdom; for others who give to you will also receive spiritual blessings.*

*Yes, my child, My Economy is wonderful! My Kingdom truly is not the kingdom of the world. Even the material gifts you dedicate to Me immediately become "spiritual currency." You have given to Me that which I can multiply in spiritual blessings to you and to others.*

*Give, My children. Your poverty shall be turned to wealth, and you will be freed from your anxieties concerning financial matters. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom.*

As soon I finished reading this powerful devotional that morning, the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and said: "Be ready to give today". I had no idea exactly what that meant, but I knew that I had heard Him. That same day, I casually struck up a conversation with a nice man in front of a grocery store while shopping for the family. It turned out he and his wife had pastored a Spirit-filled church for many years and God was calling them to the mission field full-time, and they needed funds. It's worth mentioning he did not ask me for a donation. While we were talking, I knew this was the person that the Holy Spirit was talking about when He said, "Be ready to give today".

After a very pleasant interaction that included a prayer, we exchanged numbers so I could follow up



with him. Immediately, the Lord prompted me to help this godly couple in a way financially that would launch them into the mission field. Soon after, we donated to their ministry, and we eventually became monthly supporters.

Within a week after I made the initial donation, we received a letter out-of-the-blue from an attorney that had located some forgotten funds on our behalf. At first, we wondered if the letter was a scam; however, after a phone call, we realized that the letter was legit. These were our personal funds that should have been mailed to us upon closing on a home many years prior; they were left unclaimed in an escrow account. Even though we forgot about it, God restored it back to us. This check was more than double the amount we had just given to the new missionary couple. Sometime later, we made another donation to this ministry by faith, we had another nice surprise. This time it was a tax refund that we were not expecting. Apparently, there was a miscalculation on the IRS side, so they sent us the credit balance. Both checks were well beyond the donations we had made by faith. I believe that obedience in giving opens the doors to many blessings, and it helps others in their kingdom vision. Together we share in the harvest. Praise God!

When we impart our material currency into the Kingdom, it becomes spiritual currency that God can use to give us beyond all that we could ever imagine. So, I invite you into a new journey of generous giving. You never know who you might meet or who God might align with you as you step out in faith. Many times, we are only one step away from this new adventure with the Holy Spirit; so, let's take this step of faith and watch what God can do with our obedience. It will unlock Heaven's resources; we will experience the abundance of God in ways we never dreamed possible. It will also remove limitations in our thinking and cause us to experience the economy of His Kingdom.

In summary, I want to leave you with these words from the apostle Paul:

***“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously” (2 Corinthians 9:6)***

May we all be generous givers in all things so that we can always reap generously. There is not one size fits all when it comes to giving. Whether it's our last 2 coins or it's a larger percentage of our income, I invite you to join God in the journey of generosity by giving Him not only your checkbook but most importantly your heart to obey so that you can experience His fullness in new ways you never thought possible. May God bless you richly in every way as you trust Him in everything! Shalom.



*Ray Walter grew up in Orange County, California and learned about real estate investing from his family at an early age. He watched his father save every penny he could to purchase real estate. Following in his father's footsteps, he started purchasing investment properties as well. In fact, while purchasing his third investment*

*property he met his wife, Kayla, who was the sales manager for DR Horton homes. Soon after, they were married and started raising a family. During this time, they opened a mortgage lending company, and gradually steered their mortgage lending operation towards this unique industry of what they call Private Lending. Private Lending is essentially niche mortgage lending that caters to individuals such as renovation, new construction, and commercial development loans. They focus primarily on Texas, but also can fund loans in other states. They have been able to use the business to help fund missionaries and give to the Kingdom. It a joy to be able to help others in the body of Christ. Ray and his wife, Kayla, live in Leander area with their three children.*

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# ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE JESUS EVERYTHING?



by Jeff Glass

## Jesus gave His all didn't he? Should we give anything less back to Him?

What is it that He wants from us? All of our money? All of our time? Possibly. But it starts somewhere else, somewhere deeper inside you. Jesus wants all your heart. Why not give all of it to Him? Why hold back even a little? What would be the point of that? Why settle to receive anything less than all that Jesus died to give you? Why give back to Him anything less than He deserves? You cannot out give Him anyway, so you know that whatever you give back to Him will definitely be returned to you many times over. So how do we do that? How do we surrender ourselves to Him so completely that we are holding nothing back? We are pitiful creatures in how much we have missed the mark are we not? We know that we cannot even give Him all our hearts unless He Himself is involved in our lives to do exactly that! Rest assured that He is working in us to do exactly that. That is the purpose for Him sending the Spirit to dwell in us, that we might be completely His.

A good starting place is to let Him know that you are willing to surrender everything. Just say something like this, "Jesus I know that on my own I cannot even give you all my heart, but I am willing to do so, so I will surrender and cooperate with you to operate on me any way You like." That's kind of scary, isn't it?! You are laying your entire life down at His feet. He knows what

that is like. He laid his entire life down at His Father's feet. And just as his Father raised Him up, so you also will be raised up a new transformed creature than what you were before. No matter how much you think you have been changed there is still more work that He can do, that He wants to do to you, in you and through you. His transforming power will never end until He returns for you.

## SURRENDERED TO HIS KNIFE

(an encounter I had many years ago)

This morning I was convicted to once again let Jesus have all of me. Psalm 139:23-24 says,

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my anxious thoughts and see if there is any hurtful way in me and lead me in the everlasting way."*

I have prayed this before, but deep down I either thought I was okay, or I did not really want to do this. But today I laid my soul on the table and truly asked Him to search me, look at everything, every place, and know my heart. Everything must be open to His uncovering of it, His exposure of it, and His discovery of it. Try me means to be tested. Oh, I do not want this, but I must yield to Him. There must be a discovering of what's there so He can deal with it.

As I did this, I saw Jesus standing there with a

scalpel. I thought He would be cutting just a little here and a little there, so I said, “Okay go ahead.” Suddenly to my surprise, He immediately began slicing huge thick slabs of my flesh inside of me, like cleaning out the inside of a pumpkin. Long full thick slabs of my flesh were being sliced off with every move of his arm making long huge sweeping strokes. I was shocked! Again and again, He did this. I looked around and said, “If you keep this up there won’t be anything left of me – just an empty shell. He looked at me with that knowing look of His and said, “Exactly, none of you, all of me. We need to make room for Me to fill every crevice of you.” I prayed again: “Lord I want to be wholly yours. I don’t want to be an average Christian. I want to see your power work through me in mighty ways. I want to walk with you, obey you, listen to you, and let you move through me to touch others.”

Then He showed me something about Psalm 139:24,

*“See if there be any hurtful way in me.”*

Literally, it says “way of pain”. He showed me that “the hurtful way” or “the way of pain” is His! Is there anything in me that is hurting Him or brings pain to Him! Oh Jesus, I want to bring you joy and pleasure not pain.

## **WE MUST BE WILLING**

I had been walking with the Lord learning to listen to Him for several years when I found myself praying at home. While praying, I sensed that God wanted me to surrender my control over money to Him even more. Up to this point my giving had been regular, although often calculated. So, I prayed, “Lord one day you are going to put your finger on my finances in a big way, help me to surrender that to You and prepare for that.” I think it was a year or so later that I was praying at home and the Lord spoke. It went like this:

Lord: “I want you to give some money to R.M.” (A friend who was out of work with four kids)

Me: “Okay I’ll give him \$100.”

Lord: “That’s good, that’s what YOU want to give him. Do you want to know what I want to give him?”

Me: I knew in my heart that this was it, so I surrendered and said, “Okay go ahead.”

Lord: “I want you to give him \$1,000.”

Me: “Lord, you know I wanted to use that money to pay down a credit card balance.”

Lord: “Would it hurt you to carry that \$1000 on your credit card for another year?”

Me: “No, not really, it wouldn’t really matter in the long run.”

Lord: “That’s right, but it would matter to them.”

Me: “Okay, I will do it.”

I wrote the check and gave it to them at church on Sunday. Later in the week, he told me that he needed the money by that Friday to pay for car insurance on two vehicles. That was the most money I had ever given in my life at one time. Up to that point, I think the most I had ever given was around \$300. I’ll tell you what – it was a great feeling to give and let go of attaching myself to money. Since that time God has worked in my life to give freely and generously all the time. I tip people who normally you would not tip. I buy strangers meals, and I even bought a stranger’s groceries once! My giving moved up to new heights so that now giving hundred’s here and there all the time is such a joy and giving thousands is a much greater joy. And I have to say God has greatly blessed me so much that in my retirement I receive more than I did when I was working!

## **GIVING TO JESUS THE THING I LOVED THE MOST**

I had only been living in Granbury Texas for seven months when my son who had been living in the Philippines for three years was finally coming back home. I picked him up at the airport and took him to my home in Granbury. He is not a Christian and had been living a prodigal lifestyle, yet because I loved him, I supported him the entire time. In a way, I had to because he could not work in the Philippines, and then, the COVID shutdown came making things very difficult in that country. However, now that he was here, I made it clear that he needed to work and support himself. Over a period of five days, he kept asking me to give him \$300 a month every month. I kept telling him no, he had to learn to take care of himself. He did not like that. Sylinda and I went out on our back deck to seek the Lord together. Suddenly like a flash of lightening the thought came to give up my son to Jesus, and the words just rolled out of me without thinking, without hesitation, “Lord, if it is necessary for me to sacrifice my relationship with my son in order for him to be saved and walk with you, I am willing for that to happen.” What happened next happened so fast it still amazes me. Sylinda said something to him, and I said something to him; he overreacted, packed his bags, called someone to come and get him and he was gone – just like that – bam! I haven’t heard from him since. That was very painful. Afterward, I started to contact him via messenger, but Jesus spoke to me saying, “Do not try to undo what I am doing. What should it profit you to gain or keep your son and then for him to lose his own soul. For him to know me is better than for him to know you.”

## GOD SAYS

***“Give and it shall be given to you...and with the same standard of measure you give that same amount shall be measured out and given back to you.” (Luke 6:38)***

Why not give him your all. Why settle for less. You have nothing to lose and literally everything to gain. Do it today!



*Jeff Glass graduated from UTA and Southwestern Seminary. He was heavily involved in college ministry for four years and helped start two churches. He was Field Supervisor over six employees for a landscape business, owned and operated two businesses for 35 years, managed a Pizza Hut with 35 employees, was Area Manager for Public Storage supervising seven property managers, and now is a self-taught stock trader working from home.*

*But the real story is even though I was a Christian and absolutely knew that Jesus lived in me I was not walking with him for about half of my working years. So one day while working Jesus spoke to me clearly and the result was I was transformed and entered into a more intimate relationship with him than I ever knew was even possible. This encounter and many of my life stories and spiritual dreams can be found on my website at [jeffglass.net](http://jeffglass.net). My hope is that my stories will encourage you and show you how to move into a deeper walk with Jesus. Jesus says, “Listen to me, believe me, walk with me.”*



# FOOD FOR LEARNING

*Feeding Children in the Philippines*

Because of malnutrition, some of the children are not healthy enough to do well in school. Some are often absent because they have no food or are out searching for food, usually in places where scraps are tossed out. *Some of the children are going to the garbage site early in the morning to look for something they can sell in order to buy a little breakfast before going to school.*

**God spoke to us about this need.**

He said, *“The children I gave you are hungry. Feed them.”*

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**“Food for Learning”**

# Giving

## BECAUSE GOD GAVE FIRST

by Sue Tubbs and Robin Robinson Bohlin

As I contemplated this issue on Giving, I asked, “Lord, who would you like for our authors to be in this upcoming issue?” and His immediate response to me was: “Sue Tubbs”. I thought to myself: “Good idea Lord ☺.” Sue is one of the most, if not THE most prolific givers I know. I have studied her for forty years as a friend and mentor. She has the amazing gift of giving, but as you will read, she believes EVERYONE should have an amazing gift of giving not just those with the spiritual gift. What you will read below is my interview of my life-long friend and mentor. My prayer is that your life will be changed through her words and actions as mine have been.

I began with an initial question of **HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU BEGAN TO GIVE?** Sue stated that she was about five years old. She was raised in an upper middle class, established family who had a pattern of giving. Her parents would support many people in need and even help out the local government when they were out of funds. Her father, who was a very successful businessman/salesman, would ask the city government if they had a shortfall, and if the answer was yes, then he would make up the difference. Sue told a story of how, when she worked for her father as a teenager, he told her to write a very large check and give it to a mission work of their church. She saw giving in action as a child. She and her mother used to go to the “other side of the tracks” and help people in their homes. She told me stories of how they would open a refrigerator, and there was nothing there, or open a pantry and it was bare. Her mother would send her to the store with a list of things to buy for the underprivileged families. In one home, there happened to be an adorable baby,

and her mother said, “As soon as you go purchase the items needed you get to hold the baby.” Sue stated that she went “post haste” to the store and back so that she got to hold the baby.

So, young Sue was about five years old when she first remembered giving. Her mother was a very successful florist, and so, one day she took one of her mother’s containers and went into the yard and made a beautiful arrangement of jonquils. Her mother questioned her about what she was doing with the arrangement. Sue stated that she was taking it to the Martindales (their doctor that lived next door to them). Her mother said, “You have to leave that arrangement here,” but Sue insisted on giving the arrangement away, and she got her way at age five.

She began a pattern of making flower arrangements and giving them away at that point. When she was in Junior High School, she had three teachers that said they would do her work if she would make them arrangements, and she did. Her giving progressed from there into her married life.

Three times her husband, Barry (Kenneth Copeland’s senior minister), would come up the stairs of their home and stop in his tracks. He would look around and say “Where is everything? Who got it this time?” Sue would have given all of her den furniture away. She did this THREE TIMES. He never was upset about it and accepted it. Sue said that “*Giving is the most wonderful thing I could do for God.*” She stated “*Keep on giving, keep on giving.*” She laid down an enormous pattern of giving, and she grew to know the principle of sowing and reaping as she studied God’s Word.

*2 Corinthians 9:6-7 says, “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” (NKJV)*

So, as Barry and Sue faithfully sowed cars, furniture, money, time, jewelry etc. they were given a house! When they moved to Fort Worth, they were working with a realtor and Barry told the realtor “I want Sue to have what she wants.” Sue said, “No, I want it to be the way you want it Barry.” They told the realtor they would let her know which house they would buy in the morning. About 9 pm that night a woman called and said may I come visit you? When she got to the house, she said, “I’m going to give you something because you understand the Word don’t you?” Their answer was yes and so she said I want to give you my house. Sue stated “We didn’t do anything God just blessed us. You can’t get in His way. It’s terrible to get in the way of God. It was a wonderful gift and we lived there for 25 years!” When she left that house and bought another one, of course, she gave her furniture away! “To me, Robin, you cannot give anything away without God blessing you and having a return. That’s not why I do it, for a return, but I appreciate that about God, that I could have a return.”

My family and I were at that house many times. The house was HUGE and BEAUTIFUL and filled with exquisite furniture! It had a wonderful pool and cabana – really a dream house. Sue and Barry let us use their pool (which had a slide and diving board) any time we wanted to, so we had many birthday parties there. They shared their received gift freely with others. This almost 4000 square feet house sat on a half an acre lot in a prestigious neighborhood. God gives seed to the sower!

Next question I asked. **WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN GOD TELLS YOU TO GIVE SOMETHING?** Sue said, “I go get it and give it.” I asked her what she did if God told her to give something that she didn’t want to give? She stated “It really doesn’t matter what it is or how much it is, if God said to do it you need to do it. I think that God gave and gave and gave and gave. I can pray about anything and God will do it immediately.” She told of how one day she had misplaced checks that she had written out to people; she asked the Lord where they were and went to a drawer immediately, and there they were. She stated “You know, I’m to a point in my life where I talk to God all day long and I can hear what He has to say. The main thing is, I can ask Him for anything, anything, and He will give it to me.”

God in His essence is a giver. John 3:16 states, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should*

*not perish but have everlasting life” (NKJV).*

Genesis 1:27 states that we are made in God’s image, therefore we in our essence are givers. To not be a giver would be denying who we are in the center of our being.

Next question was **HOW DOES GOD FEEL ABOUT GIVING?** Sue stated “He’s excited, He’s happy.” Another question I asked her was **HOW SHOULD A BELIEVER FEEL ABOUT TITHING?** Her answer “They don’t have any choice. You’re stealing from God if you don’t tithe. You’re taking it away, you’re stealing.”

**Malachi 3:6-10 “For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore, you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of hosts. “But you said, ‘In what way shall we return?’ “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” (NKJV)**

She told the story of how she tithed on her allowance since she was little, and she loved it because she knew God would bless her. She also told the story of when she and Barry first got married. “Barry said we’re not going to tithe but I didn’t listen to him. When he went out of the room, I went through this pile of money he had and I got enough out that was 10 percent, and I did that every Sunday. He never missed the money because it was so much. He never missed a dollar! And so that was a wonderful time really.” That period didn’t last long because they became life-long tithers.

**WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO PEOPLE THAT SAY WE ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW WE’RE UNDER GRACE SO WE DON’T HAVE TO TITHE?** “I would just think they are crazy, Robin. I mean if they can’t get that little bitty law that God gave us, how are they going to move on to something bigger? When God has told us to do one thing and we don’t do it, things are not going to go well. But if you go on and tithe, things will go really well for you.” “You’re not going to be blessed if you don’t do 2+2=4, I mean it’s such a simple thing – to tithe. If they think that 10 percent of their money, they can’t give away...”

I asked her what advice would she give to someone who is reading these words and they don’t tithe, what should they do? “If you’re not tithing, you have to change your mind and get in line with the Word of God. You have

to talk to the Lord and tell him about how sorry you are for not tithing before but you want to tithe now. He will hear you of course, like He always does and your life will change, if you tithe. A person that doesn't tithe just wants to hold on to their money as tight as they can but whenever they change and actually tithe it's different."

Next question was **WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE IN TITHING AND GIVING?** Sue stated that you have to tithe just like you have to brush your teeth every morning Tithing and giving are two different things. Tithing, you don't have a choice. *"Giving, I almost feel like God runs to you and puts His arm around you when you are giving because you have to give all the time."* She went on to talk about how the Lord gives her directions in giving. *"You're never going to hear from God if you don't start with basic things and tithing is the very basic thing."* *"If you can get that started then you can get another thing going in your mind that you've been wanting to do."*

We talked about other things to give besides money, like yourself. She said that people say we don't have money and things like you do to give away. She encourages EVERYONE to give what they have. I've heard Sue talk about the widow who sowed her last money to God and how Jesus was sitting there and watching her do it. Mark 12: 41-44 states,

***"Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood." (NKJV)***

This widow woman did not have lots of money and fine things to sow but Jesus watched her as she gave all that she had, and she has now become famous because her story was included in God's Word! Sow what you have to sow!

She told about giving her time and energy to go in and clean and organize people's house who needed help. I actually accompanied her on several of these projects. It took a lot of effort with some people's houses because the house was in absolute shambles when we arrived, but after hours and hours of work, the house sparkled. This is a huge way of giving. When we could have been cleaning our own houses, we were cleaning someone else's. *"I think unless you give yourself away, all the giving you've ever done is nothing compared to God giving His son away. And I tell Him that all the time. You're the most amazing person I've ever met."*

Sue always told me that a gift makes a way for you.

**Proverbs 18:16 (NKJV) "A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men."**

She uses this scripture to get to know people, her neighbors, strangers, anyone she meets. I was with her one time at a wholesale florist place in Dallas. We observed two African-American women being perplexed in the ribbon aisle. Sue asked one what she was trying to do. The lady stated that her daughter was getting married and that she had to pick out a ribbon for bows. Sue said, *"I'm going to buy all your ribbon, and then if you will come to my car with the ribbon, I will make your bows."* The woman was flabbergasted but did exactly what Sue said. I remember the total for the ribbon being close to \$400. The woman came to the car with her ribbon said *"You might not want to do this because my daughter is gay and is getting married."* Sue said it didn't matter and that she was proud of the mother for loving her daughter. We had an opportunity to pray for the lady and for her daughter to come out of that lifestyle.

Sue also told about going shopping one day, and a well-dressed lady and a little girl were kind of wandering around the store. Sue began to follow them. When they went up to the register, they didn't have much in their basket. Sue asked them why they didn't have many school supplies. The lady shared she had just given all her money to a Hispanic lady that was needy in the store. Sue said, *"Come with me, and I want you to buy all you need."* After some encouragement, they put over \$300 in their basket and as they were checking out, the mom turned to the little girl and said, *"See I told you that God would provide!"* Sue had the little girl buy ALL of her school supplies plus anything else that she wanted. She stated to the little girl that God is so generous, and we should be just like Him! I'm sure this mother and daughter will never forget that encounter.

Sue ended the interview with a couple of good statements that I wanted to share. *"If you can't hear the Lord, you're in deep trouble. If you can't hear the voice of the Lord and obey Him, then how is He going to keep giving to you. You know He might do it for a little while but then He will stop it."* *"God put giving in everyone's heart – it's a gift for me, but God puts that in everyone's heart, and if they obey, that's great. If they don't, their face begins to harden and their countenance changes. You can tell that they are not approaching God. Maybe giving isn't your gift, and that's ok, but maybe you should start by blessing people, have a lifestyle of giving."*

God is a giver and He gave the best. We are made in His image so within our DNA holds that component of giving. My personal life has grown and has been stimulated by Sue Tubbs. I have watched her through the years, and I have grown exponentially in this area. I was raised by a giver but Sue "takes the cake". God truly does give seed to the sower.

*2 Corinthians 9:10 (NLT) "For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you."*

Now, it is nothing for me to give \$100 to someone. I try to make a habit of it. God has instructed me not to think about it – when He tells me to do it, I do it. I make a habit of buying meals when I'm with others, and honestly, I never miss the money. Somehow I just have more to give. I know it's not a magic trick, but sometimes, it feels like it. We were instructed to give someone \$1000 the other day, and I told my husband, "it's ok, because if God said to do it – He will make sure we have that return and more!"

I hope you have been encouraged by these stories, I really have a magnificent friend who listens to God and does what He says. When the Word of God says that *"To obey is better than sacrifice"* in 1 Samuel 15:22, greater words could not be true. You honestly cannot out give God. He will make sure that His supply never runs out. He wants you to have enough for yourself and a surplus to give. I like to say it this way: We are blessed to be a blessing.



*Sue Tubbs is wife to Barry Tubbs, has two wonderful children, three fantastic grandchildren and awaits the birth of her first great grandchild. She has been in love with Jesus since she was four years old. Her goal in life is to please Him every day, all day because He is her best friend. She has been blessed all her life.*

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# The Ministry of Giving

by Dan Layne

Whenever I think of the upcoming holiday season, my thoughts turn to the ministry of giving. In this article I want to discuss three aspects of the ministry of giving. The first is **purpose**. To begin, I want to refer to the building of the Tabernacle in the wilderness. When Moses was called by God up to Mount Sinai, he stayed 40 days and 40 nights. In Exodus chapter 25, Verses 1 through 9 we find these words:

*The Lord said to Moses, tell the people of Israel that everyone who wants to may bring me an offering. Here is a list of items you may accept on my behalf: gold silver and bronze; blue purple and scarlet yarn; fine linen; goat hair for cloth; tanned ram skins and fine goat skin leather; Acacia wood; olive oil for the lamps; spices for the anointing oil and the fragrant incense; Onyx stones, and other stones to be set in the ephod and the chest piece. I want the people of Israel to build me a sacred residence where I can live among them. You must make this Tabernacle and its furnishings exactly according to the plans I will show you. (NLT)*

We see in this passage of scripture the purpose of giving was for the service of the sanctuary in the Tabernacle to enable the people to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness and to provide a place for

the presence of the Lord to dwell. Then in Exodus 35, Moses called a meeting of all the people and told them that they must obey these instructions from the Lord and invited them to bring their free will offerings of materials and labor to build the house of the Lord. The people responded as we see in verses 20-29:

*So, all the people left Moses and went to their tents to prepare their gifts. If their hearts were stirred and they desired to do so, they brought to the Lord their offerings of materials for the Tabernacle and its furnishings and for the holy garments. Both men and women came, all whose hearts were willing. Some brought to the Lord their offerings of gold--medallions, earrings, rings from their fingers, and necklaces. They presented gold objects of every kind to the Lord. Others brought blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, fine linen, or goat hair for cloth. Some gave tanned ram skins or fine goatskin leather. Others brought silver and bronze objects as their offering to the Lord. And those who had Acacia wood brought it. All the women who are skilled in sewing and spinning prepared blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and fine linen cloth, and they brought them in. All the women who were willing used their skills to spin and weave the goat hair into cloth. The leaders brought Onyx stones*

*and the other gemstones to be used for the ephod and the chest piece. They also brought spices and olive oil for the light, the anointing oil, and the fragrant incense. So the people of Israel--every man and woman who wanted to help in the work of the Lord had given them through Moses--brought their offerings to the Lord. (NLT)*

The above verses show that the people were motivated to worship the Lord with their free will offerings. They were moved in their hearts and were willing to offer their materials and skills to be used in building God's house. In the next chapter of Exodus, verses 1-7, we read that so many gifts kept coming in until the craftsmen told Moses that they had more than enough materials to complete the job. So Moses sent a message throughout the camp that they had given more than enough and to stop bringing their contributions. Most church leaders today have not had that experience because usually there is not enough in the church treasury to meet all the needs! When God's people are obedient to the stirring in their hearts to give to Kingdom work, then His will shall be accomplished.

King David in I Chronicles, chapter 29, verses 1-9, is gathering materials and resources to build the temple of the Lord. He gathered great quantities of gold and other materials and gave all of his private treasures of gold and silver as well. He invited others to give freewill offerings to the Lord and all the family leaders and the leaders of Israel gave willingly for the construction of the temple. The people rejoiced over the offerings that were given freely and wholeheartedly and King David was filled with joy. Here we see another example of what free will offerings from the people and their leadership will do to build God's Kingdom.

The next aspect of giving is the principle of **priorities**. Jesus said in the sermon on the mount in Matthew 6:33 to seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all of our needs would be met. In Proverbs 3:9-10, we find written,

*“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything your land produces. Then he will fill your barns with grain and your vats will overflow with the finest wine.”*

Does not the Lord deserve the best that we can give? Is the Lord pleased with leftovers? When we make giving to the Lord a priority instead of hoping that we will have something left to give at the end of the month, we are giving our first fruits and worshipping him in spirit and in truth.

Let's look at Elijah and the widow of Zarephath in the 17th chapter of I Kings when he asked her to bring him a cup of water and a bite of bread. She told him she had not a single piece of bread in the house but she had a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil

in the bottom of the jug. She was intending to cook her last meal for her and her son and then die. Elijah told her to bake him some bread first and there would be enough food left for her and her son. So when she did what the prophet said, she and her son had bread to eat for many days thereafter!

The third aspect of the ministry of giving is the **promise**. We have already seen in the scripture in Proverbs 3:9-10 that when we put the Lord first in our ministry of giving, it sets in motion a reciprocity of return. Let me state here that we shouldn't only give material things, but our time and talent, as well. Jesus is quoted as saying that it is more blessed to give than receive but no farmer would plant seed without expecting a harvest. II Corinthians 9:6-10 says,

*“Remember this--a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the scriptures say, Godly people give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will never be forgotten. For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will give you many opportunities to do good, and he will produce a great harvest of generosity in you.” (NLT)*

This article has shared the **Purpose, Priority, and Promise** of the ministry of giving. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will help whoever reads it to receive the truth contained herein and give God the glory due unto His Name.



Dan Layne was born in Fort Worth, Texas in 1946. He graduated in 1963 from Springtown High school. He married the love of his life, Glenda, in 1965. They have two children, five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. He was called into full-time ministry in 1971 and graduated from Texas Wesleyan University in 1974. He pursued graduate studies from both SMU and Texas A&M Commerce. He began pastoral ministry in 1972. He was a teacher, coach and administrator in both public and private schools from 1980-1998. He is currently pastor of Purdon Community Church in Purdon, Texas.

# It's a Matter of the



# HEART

by Robin Robinson Bohlin

***“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”***

— Winston Churchill

This quote by Winston Churchill really sums up what the Bible teaches. When we choose giving over getting, we become more like our Heavenly Father. As Believers our lifestyle should be reflective of God. He loved so He gave – we should love so that we give! John 3:16 (KJV)

***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”***

When giving becomes a lifestyle then all the questions about money and how it should be used seem to disappear. A lifestyle giver will never have lack because the Word of God says that He gives seed to the sower. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (NIV)

***“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”***

This scripture says that when we become a sower, we will be enriched in EVERY WAY so that we can be

generous on EVERY occasion.

I have learned in life that when you begin to talk about giving, especially when it concerns money, division happens. Why is this? I believe God designed it this way for men to examine their hearts. All throughout the scriptures, giving is linked to the heart. 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NASB1995)

***“Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”***

This scripture directly correlates the heart and giving. God is encouraging us to give cheerfully and not because we “have” to. I don’t know about you but when God says He LOVES something; I want to do it. If He says He HATES it, I don’t want to do it. Here, He states that He loves the happy, cheerful, joyous giver. When someone gives with these emotions in their heart – love is on display! God is such a positive Dude ☺. He wants what we do to be done in a positive way. Mother Theresa said, “It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.” So, this giving issue is a matter of the heart.

I want to tell you about my heart change in this area. I was raised by two givers. My dad tells the story of how they first attended Harmony Baptist Church just after getting married. The pastor came to visit right after they joined, and the pastor thanked them for their tithe. My father was very proud of that story and

told it because they were tithers in the beginning of their marriage. I never knew them as anything else. Of course as I grew up, I had to develop my own identity.

My husband and I struggled financially in the beginning of our marriage. We did not tithe because we thought we didn't have the money; actually, my heart was not in the right place. My husband was a teacher/coach, and I was a stay-at-home mom. We got paid once a month and the FIRST thing that I would do was to go grocery shopping. My attitude at the time was, "I have to make sure we have food in the house." At the end of the month, if we had money left over, I would write a \$40 check (some nebulous number I came up with) to the church, and I felt appeased.

Life continued to happen, and we struggled financially. One day I asked a friend of mine who always seemed to be blessed and who seemingly had more money than we did to help me with our finances. She told me to bring over my bills and she would help. I remember walking in her house with my "box of bills" head hanging down, eyes lowered in shame. I was so embarrassed that we couldn't get our financial act together. As we sat down over a cup of coffee, she asked me "Do you tithe?" My answer was "We can't afford to." Her immediate response to me was "You can't afford NOT to." I began to cry as my heart became convicted. It was like this blanket of shame was lifted off me, and I began to feel what a heart of giving felt like. She helped me organize our finances, and we started that day tithing and never went back. It was such a simple process; it took a change in my heart. So, starting at a simple 10% given back to God was showing my "thankfulness" to Him. Wow – the explosion of joy in my heart came when I chose to do things God's way instead of my own.

From that day forward, we gave God honor through tithing, and I began my lifelong journey into giving. The next thing that happened was "stewardship." That's a complicated-sounding word that basically means managing what you have. We had some pretty big credit card debt. Because He had our heart from choosing to tithe, He got us out of debt in a year. I won't go into that whole story but simply we did what He told us to do. Just because we had become tithers didn't mean that our money was freed up. When we became debt-free we were able to use our money for giving and not all on ourselves.

When you live paycheck to paycheck you really don't have the extra money to give. God wants your finances freed up so that you CAN give when He tells you to give. I believe it's God's will for EACH of His children to prosper. We must not forget that we are Abraham's seed through spiritual adoption and therefore heirs of His promise. Galatians 3:29 (BRG)

***"And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise."***

Acts 3:25 (AMP)

***"You are the sons (descendants) of the prophets and [heirs] of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'AND IN YOUR SEED (descendant) ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.'"***

I don't know about you but when I read that my family is blessed, and this came through a spiritual promise from God – I TAKE IT!

After Jonas and I made a choice for our family by tithing and getting our finances in order, we began to really be blessed and our money was freed up to begin giving. I want to say at this point, our income never changed through this. It was our hearts that changed. Soon, we had enough money to purchase our first home, and we were on the road to becoming a "poster child" for tithing, stewardship and giving. Our lives drastically changed when we made these decisions. Jonas was still a teacher, and I was still a stay-at-home mom, but the first thing that we did was not to go grocery shopping; it was to write our tithe check and then we lived on the rest.

I would like to stop here and make a plug for Dave Ramsey at this point. His **Financial Peace University** program helped us get our finances in order. His program showed us how to get out of debt and live on cash. That was over 30 years ago and to this day, I have cash envelopes in my purse from which we operate. I have a "GIVING" envelope. I freely give out of this envelope as the Lord instructs. We are at the point now that if the Lord tells us to give something, we do it without thinking because we have the money to do so. God truly does give seed to the sower. We like to say it this way, ***"We are blessed to be a blessing."***

I had a vision recently and I believe this day is coming soon. In this vision, I was standing out on the curb in front of my house with a huge stack of \$100 bills. There were cars lined up, and I was passing the \$100 bills through the windows of people that needed it. I encouraged them to follow the path that we had followed and their lives were changed. I am amazed at how our lives were changed when we made that simple adjustment to our finances. I believe we got into God's flow and into His strategic plan when we chose to tithe. It begins with the tithe...and then everything else falls into place. That is my testimony.

I want to share several giving testimonies with you. We began to learn about first-fruit offerings. This is different than the tithe. The tithe is 10% of every income that you receive. The first fruit offering is an offering to be given over and above the tithe. One

January, I told Jonas, “Honey, I think the Lord wants us to give a first-fruit offering for our year! What do you think about us giving our entire salary check?” He looked at me with wide eyes and stood there for a minute and then said, “Let’s pray about it.” A few days later we both agreed that God was directing us to do this...and guess what? Somehow, we had all the money to pay our bills that month. A first-fruit offering is called rightly, it is an offering and not a tithe. This is used in our lives to show God that we are serious about doing His work and that we have dedicated ourselves completely to Him. It is at this point that giving becomes fun!

I had a money envelope labeled “teeth”. I had some major dental work to be done. I had saved almost \$1000 for the dental work. God had told me that I was to give that cash to the needy families in the Philippines. I ignored that instruction and kept the money and I justified it because of my teeth. I was sitting in an elder’s meeting one evening, and we were talking about obeying God. I told God “I will do what you say,” and His response to me was “I won’t tell you anything else to do until you do what I’ve already told you to do.” I immediately knew he was talking about my teeth money. I stood up immediately and went out to my car and got the envelope that had over \$800 dollars in it and gave it to my father (who was the head of our Philippine ministry) with tears knowing that I was following God’s instruction. It was hard for him to receive because he read “teeth” on the envelope and knew I had some major dental issues. But he did receive it. I repented that night and told God that from here on out I would give what He told me to give. Another little piece of my heart was given to Him in that moment. And guess what! God not only replaced that money but gave me more to have my teeth fixed.

There is an empty lot behind our house that belongs to the City of Fort Worth. I’ve had my eye on this property for a while and have been asking the Lord if I could buy it for my garden. I had recently lost my garden plot because the family that allowed me to use it had moved away and the new owners wanted that area back. As I was praying one day, God said, “I don’t want you to buy that lot I want you to buy acreage for a hunting area for Jonas, my husband. Get up and go tell him that I am giving him the desires of his heart for a life well lived for My Kingdom.” I went upstairs to his office and told him exactly what God had said to me. He got a big grin on his face and immediately went to work on finding the land. We purchased approximately 25 acres in West Texas loaded with all kind of wildlife, especially deer. And here’s the kicker, when I asked the new family if I could garden on the old garden plot, they said “Well, of course!” So, I got my garden back, but I’m still believing I will also own the lot behind my house, as well. It was another level of trust when

I gave what I was believing for to someone else. It was in giving that I received, and I believe I will keep on receiving.

These are precious stories to me and I’ve seen my faith and trust in God grow through these giving opportunities. I honestly do not believe that I would be the person I am today had I not given what God instructed me to give. Now it is nothing for me to hand someone a \$100 or to pay for a whole family’s dinner or buy an unsuspecting person’s groceries. It becomes exciting to do what God says to do, but again, the only way I could get to that position was to start with tithing and managing our money through stewardship.

I am so excited to also tell you that we just paid off our home. This really excites me because even more money has been freed up to give. So, God instructed me to pay for new blinds for a single woman’s newly purchased home. Her response to me was “That’s a lot of money.” My response was “I know, and God is good!!” What an exciting life to live. It truly is more blessed to give than receive. God knows the excitement in giving. He wants your life to be fun and full of peace and the only way this can happen is to do what He says – Selah!



*Robin and her husband Jonas Bohlin Pastor Fullness in Christ Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Robin is a prophetic writer for “What the Lord is Saying Today”. She has been in ministry most of her life. She is an author, a conference speaker and a seasoned Bible teacher. She is also a worship leader whose main calling is to teach others how to have intimacy with the Father.*

*She holds a degree in Psychology with an emphasis on Family Studies from Western Baptist College (now Corban University). She is committed to helping families be healthy and whole through pastoral counseling. She and her husband also serve as Clergy with the Fort Worth Police Department. She has three wonderful adult children and eight spectacular grand-children. Her book “GENERATIONS, Passing on Your Spiritual Inheritance” is now available on Amazon.com. Robin is a lifelong believer in mentorship and is an active member in church and in public schools. She started a mentoring program in a local elementary and middle school called “T2”, taken from 1 Timothy 1:2. She also started “People Reaching People” a city outreach program.*

# DECLARING THE TRUTH



by Jennifer Peikert

## Daddy God

Our Daddy God is incredibly good. He is overwhelmingly good. We have goodness and mercy that shall follow us all the days of our lives. So many look at God as mean and someone who is going to punish them. God wants all of us and those of you who look at God that way to know that He is not that way; He is amazingly good. The Word of God tells us in:

**Psalms 31:19-20 (NKJV)** *“Oh, how great is Your goodness which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men! You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of men; you shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.”*

I believe this scripture says a lot about God’s goodness toward us. HE is saying to us, “I AM wrapping you in My goodness. You will lack no good thing. My goodness will engulf you and wrap you up. I am choosing you to be My poster child to display My goodness. Will you believe Me? I am wrapping you and engulfing you so much that there will not be room for anything but My goodness. Will you stand and let me wrap you up? Will you believe Me? I AM ready, are you? I love you with an everlasting love. I am trustworthy. I will never leave you. I will never forsake you or disappoint you. It is wrapping and engulfing time. I am wrapping you and engulfing you in My love and My goodness.” says the Lord.

Where you have had turmoil, God is bringing you peace. Where you have had striving, God is saying to you, “Rest in Me and thrive.” Many have had a hard time receiving God’s love that He freely gives. There is a shift happening in your life right now. God is shifting your mentality from where you thought you had to earn His love by good behavior to receiving it because He loves you. It is all based on Him and not you.

God’s goodness conveys His generosity. He has an infinite generous attitude toward us. By nature, He

longs to bring us joy and blessings. Goodness is a core quality of our Daddy God. Many need to shift from calling Him “Father” to calling Him “Daddy”.

When I think of a Daddy, instead of a Father, I think of someone to whom I can bear it all, who I can trust with absolutely everything. I think of Daddy as someone who I can crawl up into his lap and giggle and touch his face and feel so much love. Someone who will just love me and accept me unconditionally.

**Psalms 34:8 (NKJV)** *“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him.”*

**Psalms 23:6 (NKJV)** *“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”*

In my own personal life, it was very hard for me until way into my adult years to understand or receive true love of my Daddy God. I knew He loved me, but I didn’t KNOW that He loved me. Both of my parents died when I was nine years old. Therefore, I did not grow up with the love of a father/daddy. It was truly hard for me to accept love, especially from a father. When I became born again as a teenager, I had no idea how the love of my Heavenly Father worked. Even when I was in my adult years, it wasn’t until I was listening to a particular minister preach over and over again on the grace and love of God did it become a revelation to me. It totally rocked my world and changed me forever. I have a Daddy God who loves me in ways I have never been loved before. His goodness, love and mercy surround me all the days of my life. I will never lose His love. His love NEVER leaves me no matter what. His love doesn’t leave you either. I have never known a love like this before.

Embrace His love. Receive His love in its fullness. Look at His love as a free gift, because it is. You and I didn’t do anything to earn His love; therefore, we can’t do anything to lose it. He is love, He is goodness. Oh His love and goodness are glorious.

As you get into a place where you are receiving His

love and goodness, begin to give it out to others. Freely you have been given, freely give. I hear Daddy God saying to you and me, “Goodness and mercy follow you, and I am wrapping and engulfing you in My goodness and love. As you receive it, go and share it with someone. My goodness leads man to repentance. It is My love and My goodness that changes people. The harvest is ripe. Get out in the field. As you receive My goodness and love freely, you become a conduit, and I am calling you to go give it out. You are My poster child for My goodness and love. People will look at you and want what you have. Be ready to share it and give it away freely. Freely I have given it to you, freely give it away.”

I sense in my spirit that we are entering a season of souls being saved and revivals breaking out. Will you be the ones to start the fire? Will you be the ones to go out and save the lost? I feel an urgency to “love the unlovely”, as the world calls them”. Let’s go get in the trenches and save the lost. The harvest is ripe!!!! But first God wants you and me to turn around and see His



goodness and mercy following us. They are following you, turn around and see them. His goodness and love are wrapping you up right now.

Just as a butterfly is first wrapped in a cocoon before it is released, God is wrapping you in His goodness, mercy, and love, and then, He is going to release you. As you believe and receive this wrapping, and as HE releases you, you will fly. As you start to fly and believe and trust your Daddy God, you will fly higher than ever before. As you receive His goodness and love, His wrapping, you will be released and break out and fly and then fly higher.

As you let Daddy God wrap you, you then will enter your release season. Get ready, God is releasing you, and you are about to move with Him in ways you have never moved with Him. You are going to fly. I want you to reread the previous sentences. You are going to move WITH God. You and I do not work for God; we work WITH Him. It is going to be your FLYING season. It is going to be the start of your going out season.

**Romans 12:11 (TPT) “Be enthusiastic to serve the Lord, keeping your passion toward Him boiling hot! Radiate with the glow of the Holy Spirit and let Him fill you with excitement as you serve Him.”**

As He wraps you and releases you, you will be radiant with His presence. Oh, receive His goodness and love today. Receive His wrapping, and then, let Him release you. FLY sons and daughters of God. FLY!!!!

Jennifer Peikert is a prophet and minister who travels with



her husband Jay all over the world preaching the Gospel, healing the sick, being a prophetic voice to the nations and seeing signs, wonders and miracles everywhere they go. They have ministered in Japan, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Honduras, Cuba and different places in the U.S.A.

Jennifer is also an accomplished author. She has written 4 books with one translated in Spanish.

*Books by Jennifer Peikert*

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*By Budd Rodgers*

# The Shepherd's Voice

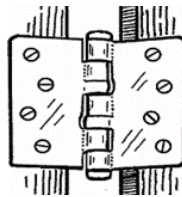
## How Are Your Hinges and Who Has The Key?

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary the following definitions are given for the word Hinge: noun

“1.a: a jointed or flexible device on which a door, lid, or other swinging part turns

b: a flexible ligamentous joint

2: a determining factor: TURNING POINT”



Synonyms are “depend, hang, ride and turn.”

The current Hebrew year is 5784. Entering the Open Door of 5784 is a prophetic word given by many prophets. Let's look at this prophetic word about Open Doors.

Most doors are set on hinges. Some are on pins, some on rollers or tracts. But either way, for a door to open with some fair amount of ease, they should be set upon something that causes them to swing or open and close. Some doors are locked, and some are blocked, but once the obstacle has been cleared, then the opening of the door should be a simple movement.

In this issue of FULLNESS ONLINE, we are portraying the aspect of “giving.”

I like to think that giving is like a hinge. In other words, the **way** we give of whatever it is we are giving, is a hinge for a door to open or close. Jesus said this in Acts 20:35, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*

as quoted by Paul to the elders in the church at Ephesus. HE (Jesus) is the utmost authority on blessing; therefore, I will give because HE says to give. This better than receiving.

I believe the scripture teaches we are to be blessed, and it also teaches that we are to bless others. For example, remember when Abraham and Lot began to see that their herdsmen were stepping all over each other because they were crowded with so much livestock? Abram told his nephew Lot in Genesis 13, Hey there is no need for us to have quarrels or our herdsmen to have quarrels over territory. You pick out what territory you want, and I will go in the opposite direction.” If you recall, Lot took what

he thought was the best-looking land. Abram took what was left. He chose to “give” Lot the choice. Of course, the land Lot chose was in the heart of Sodom, and we all know what happened there.

In Genesis 12:2-3, God told Abraham,

*“My heart's desire is to make you into a great nation, to bless you, to make your name great so that you may be a blessing. My desire is to bless those who bless you, but whoever curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”* TLV

To be a blessing is to literally give something, whether they be words of affirmation, choices, material substance, love and affection, etc...It is all basically giving.

You know the truth of it is this: the more times we give, the more times we sow into the spiritual ground means the more harvests we receive. We certainly know that the “size” of our gift is not nearly as important in regard to the proportion of our gift as demonstrated by the widow woman who gave her two mites and Jesus called her out as a great example of giving because she gave everything she had.

I believe that Father God showed us by example how important giving was according to the scripture in John 3:16

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

**For the sake of this column, today, I propose to you that your giving and my giving, (whatever we give) is going to make a difference in the way a “door” will open or close in our life.**

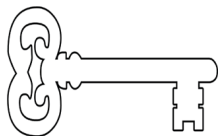
So, we know that hinges are important to give a door the ability to swing open. But another type of hardware is useful regarding doors; they are called keys.

Keys have the ability to unlock doors that have been closed and locked. Jesus said a very profound thing



in Revelation to the church in Revelation 3,

*“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens, and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: ‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.’”*



I tell you today, the “son” of David, Jesus Himself is looking to open a door for you. All you need is 1) **a little power**, 2) **keeping the words of Jesus**, which basically has to do with loving God with all your heart and loving your neighbor as yourself (again, love is something we give AND 3) **not denying His name**, which is above every name.

Before I leave you today, I want you to shut your eyes and focus on the LORD JESUS CHRIST. HE has a key in HIS hand, and HE is putting it in a huge lock that includes multiple chains. This lock is something you could imagine that the illusionist and escape artist Houdini would have been locked up with.

I hear the Lord say to you today, that there is no lock so big that HIS key will not open and there are no hinges that are so rusty that HIS love cannot set free. I prophesy to you today that the door that has been closed for so long in your life is coming open and You will know that the key of David has set You free. There is no struggling and there is no striving. Give HIM praise and worship HIS mighty name! He is the LORD OF GLORY. As you open your heart, HE will open your doors. HE will show you that HE and HE alone has ALL authority! Now go through the door as it opens for you. Step into the next chapter of your life and begin to live on HIS words every day. Shalom unto your soul. AMEN!

Your door is opening all the way for you to go through! Let me know when that door opens! I want to rejoice with You!

Blessings until next time!

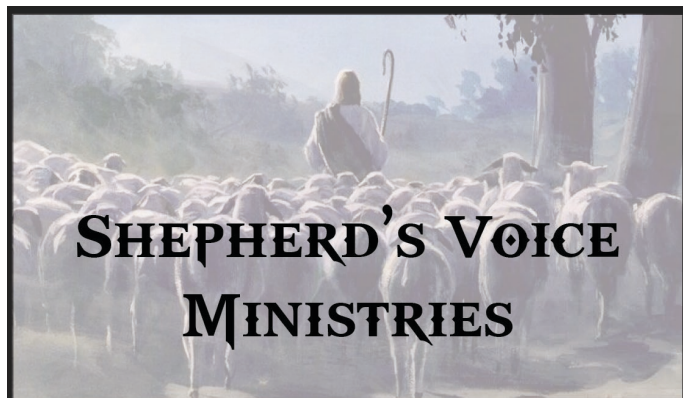
BR



*Budd is the Managing Editor of Fullness Magazine Online. He graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in Business Administration. Budd has been in Ministry for 40 plus years in various capacities, including pastoring and church planting. He is the founder of Shepherd's Voice Ministries Inc., a 501(c)3 prophetic ministry. He has an anointing to activate every generation to promote the kingdom of God and is available as an itinerant minister.*

[www.shepherdsvoiceministries.net](http://www.shepherdsvoiceministries.net)

*He and his wife Susie are Elders and Young Adult Pastors at Fullness in Christ Church in Fort Worth, Texas.*



**Budd Rodgers**, the founder of Shepherd's Voice Ministries, and has an anointing to activate every generation to promote the kingdom of God and is available as an itinerant minister.

**Budd flows in revelatory knowledge with prophetic accuracy.**

*Budd is such a blessing. I'm so thankful for His life and ministry. One thing I admire and respect about Budd is his ability to be flexible with what the Lord is doing. He yields to the Holy Spirit. We had a service where he was set to speak, but the Holy Spirit was on the move and his time to share got cut substantially. The grace he exemplified was encouraging to watch. He recognizes that the glory is for the Lord alone! This is what it looks like to be a surrendered vessel that allows the Lord to take the lead and have His will be done!*

*- Rachel D.*

**If you would like to see God move in your church or city, contact Budd Rodgers at:**  
svministriestx@gmail.com  
[www.shepherdsvoiceministries.net](http://www.shepherdsvoiceministries.net)

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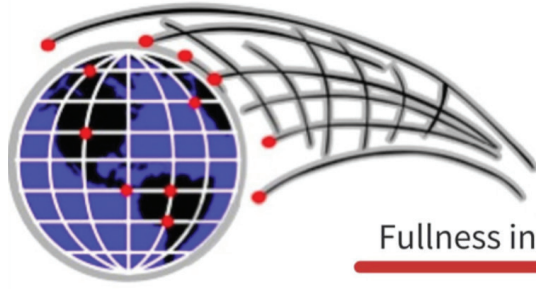


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Pam Jackson

**“Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.”**

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NLT)