

Every Knee: Because Heaven is Open Romans 12:1

Why should we give ourselves to God? We give out of an overflow of love to see the love of God spread!

God is a giver

- God does not need our money

Psalm 50

⁷ "Hear, O my people, and I will speak;

O Israel, I will testify against you.

I am God, your God.

⁸ Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt offerings are continually before me.

⁹ I will not accept a bull from your house
or goats from your folds.

¹⁰ For every beast of the forest is mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.

¹¹ I know all the birds of the hills,
and all that moves in the field is mine.

¹² "If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fullness are mine.

¹³ Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?

¹⁴ Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows to the Most High,

¹⁵ and call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

- God giving us delight

I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed.

- C.S. Lewis

It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; to come suddenly, at the turn of the road, upon some mountain valley of unexpected grandeur and then to have to keep silent because the people with you care for it no more than for a tin can in the ditch; to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with.

-C.S. Lewis

Giving is the right response

Mark 12

⁴¹ And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny.

⁴³ And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. ⁴⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Giving Gets more worshipers

- Giving moves the message

Luke 8

¹ Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³ and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

Philippians 4.18

¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

2 Corinthians 8:1–3

¹ We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord,

- We give from joy for joy!

2 Corinthians 9:6–11 (ESV)

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.