



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

Our Response to God's Blessings

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
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A life of generosity reflects God's nature (2 Cor 5:17). Generosity is not only for giving to the needy or to good causes. It is re-orienting our human heart in the direction of Christ, so that we may become transmitters of the same love and care that Christ demonstrated while He was here on earth. God wants us to give; however, generosity goes against our human nature. We have to remember that we are only stewards of all that we have (1 Cor 1:7, Hag 2:8, Ps50). He wants us to be generous because He wants us to become like Himself.

What Prevents us from Receiving Blessings?

1. Failure to consecrate ourselves or to offer ourselves to God (2 Cor 8:3-4; Rom 12:1). We have to give our lives first to the Lord; and be acceptable in His eyes.
2. Fear of the future. The Lord tells us not to worry about tomorrow (Matt 6:34).
3. Feigned or insincere love. This was manifested by Judas' attitude when Mary was pouring the expensive perfume on the feet of Jesus.
4. No faith, no action (Matt 6:30, Rom 10:17).
5. Ungratefulness (Luk 12, Ps 103:1-2).
6. Selfishness (Phil 2:3-4; Prov 28:22).
7. Doubt (James 1:8; John 20:27). Doubting God is not trusting Him.
8. Being hard-hearted (Deut 15:7-8; Matt 13:15).
9. Greed.
10. Discontent (1Tim 6:6).

What are the Wrong Reasons to Give?

1. Giving for the purpose of receiving something in return (Lk 6:38). We must give sincerely to God with no expectations.
2. Giving out of fear.
3. Giving under compulsion.

4. Giving to impress others.
5. Demanding God's blessings to reward what we consider to be our sacrifice (Matt 20:1-6). We should not ask God for blessings because we gave something.

What should be our Response to Blessings?

1. Give freely (1Chron 29:14, Prov 11:24).
2. Give cheerfully (2 Cor 9:7).
3. Give with compassion (1 John 14:7).
4. Give without compulsion.
5. Give without sparing (Prov 21:26).
6. Give to God that which costs us something (2 Sam 24:24).
7. Give in the spirit with joy and with smile.

What are the Rewards of Giving?

1. We will be blessed (Acts 20:35).
2. We will be enriched (Prov 11:25).
3. We will have God's abundant blessings (2Cor 9:8; Eph 3:20).
4. We will be overtaken by blessings when we obey (Deut 28).

God wants us to be channels of blessings. His resources enable us to give. But we have attitudes that restrict blessings. We sometimes give for the wrong reasons. When we are blessed, we have to have the right response to the blessings we receive, to be generous in return. When we give, we are blessed. Thus, we will have a cycle of giving and becoming blessed.

Reflection:

- *In what ways have you been blessed?*
- *What has been your response to God's blessings? What changes do you need to make to enable blessings to come?*

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