

## ***GIVING TO MINISTRY***

### **1. Observations.**

- a. Younger Kiwis give to causes, not to institutions. They tend to give one-time gifts, not steady monthly gifts.
- b. Kiwis prefer to give their time, not their money.

### **2. God is the owner of everything.**

- a. Whatever is under heaven is God's.  
(1) **Job 41:11** 11 Who has given to me that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine.
- b. God owns the depths of the earth, the mountain peaks, the sea, and the dry land.  
(1) **Ps 95:3-5** 3 Yahweh is a great God, and a great King above all gods, 4 in whose hand are the depths of the earth. The peaks of the mountains are his also. 5 The sea is his, for it was he who made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
- c. God gives us life, breath, and all things.  
(1) **Ac 17:24-25** 24 The God who made the world and all things in it, because he is Lord of sky and earth, does not live in temples made with hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands as though he needed anything, because he himself gives to all people life, breath, and all things.
- d. Ultimately, we are are managers, not owners. We don't really own anything.<sup>1</sup>

### **3. God is generous by nature.**

- a. Ge 9:3
- b. He gave his one and only Son for us.  
(1) **Jn 3:16** 16 God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
- c. Salvation by grace through faith is God's gifts to us.  
(1) **Eph 2:8-9** 8 By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- d. We can't beat God in giving.<sup>2</sup>

### **4. Giving is an act of worship.**

- a. We actually have a deep need to give.

### **5. Giving is one of God's great challenges to us as disciples. It reveals our hearts.**

- a. Giving is a crucial practice of discipleship.
- b. We choose whether to be an open-handed person or a close-fisted person.  
(1) "It is one of the unchangeable laws of God. You square with God and God will square with you. You give to God in days of prosperity and God will give to you in days of depression. You withhold from God in days of prosperity and God will withhold from you in days of depression. ...The one who keeps everything for

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Jeffers.

<sup>2</sup> Oswald J. Smith, *The Passion for Souls* (London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1962), 79.

himself and refuses to share it with others, becomes a stagnant pool—a Dead Sea, a blessing to no one.”<sup>3</sup>

- c. “If there be any truer measure of a man than by what he does, it must be what he gives.”<sup>4</sup>

## 6. Mindset.

- a. Php 4:19 19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Messiah Jesus.

## 7. As wealth increases, we are to increase our standard of giving not our standard of living.

- a. “If I increase my offering beyond former years, then I favour an advance movement in the conquest of new territory for Christ.”<sup>5</sup>

## 8. There may be one or two times in our lives when God asks us to give extravagantly.

- a. **Jn 12:1-8** 1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. 3 Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him) said, 5 Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? ... 7 Jesus said, Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.
- b. **Jn 19:38-40** 38 After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. 39 Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. 40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

## 9. Reward.

- a. Giving brings joy to our lives in a way almost no other action does.
  - (1) **Ac 20:35** 35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.
  - (2) Illustration: Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*.
  - (3) Generosity is a hallmark of people who live successful lives.
- b. Judgment Seat of Messiah.

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<sup>3</sup> Oswald J. Smith, *The Passion for Souls* (London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1962), 80-81.

<sup>4</sup> Robert South (d. 1716), quoted in Steve Shadrach, *The God Ask*, Kindle Locations 935-937.

<sup>5</sup> Oswald J. Smith, *The Passion for Souls* (London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1962), 84.

(1) “He is no fool who parts with that which he cannot keep, when he is sure to be recompensed with that which he cannot lose.”<sup>6</sup>

**10. We are to train our children how to give.**

- a. “From the time [the children] are five or six years of age, they are taught to give systematically. Then when they grow up we have no trouble with them. They have learned how to give.”<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Philip Henry (d. 1696), father of Matthew Henry (d. 1714).

<sup>7</sup> Oswald J. Smith, *The Passion for Souls* (London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1962), 33.

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