

# Sunday, February 7, 2021

## Title: The Habit of Giving Series - Receiving God's Favor 4

Text: Galatians 2:7 – 10; James 2:14 – 17; 2  
Corinthians 9:6 – 15; Malachi 3:6 - 10

*Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to continue in the Habit of Giving, God will honor their generosity.*

### Introduction:

Review of the last Sunday's devotional:  
The Habit of Obedience

1. Careful NOT to Misapply Scripture
2. Careful to Listen
3. Careful to Adjust my Walk

1 Timothy 4:13, *"Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."*

Read: Galatians 2:7 – 10; James 2:14 – 17; 2  
Corinthians 9:6 – 15; Malachi 3:6 – 10

### 1. Giving is Better Than Receiving:

- 1.1) Acts 20:35, *"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.'"*
- 1.2) Psalm 112:5 – 9, *"It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice. (6) For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever. (7) He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. (8) His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries. (9) He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor."*

We can NEVER out give the Lord!

### 2. Giving is Love in Action:

- 2.1) Galatians 2:7 – 10, *"On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised (8) (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), (9) and when James and Cephas and John, who*

*seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. (10) Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do."*

- 2.2) James 2:14 – 17, *"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? (15) If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, (16) and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? (17) So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."*

Cf. Romans 11:35 and Proverbs 19:17, *"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed."*

Cf. 2 Thessalonians 3:10, *"for even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat."*

### 3. Giving Opens the Windows of Heaven and Produces a Harvest:

- 3.1) 2 Corinthians 9:6 - 15  
~ vs. 6 – How am I sowing...and where (Mark 4)? Relief AND Development  
~ vs. 7 – Giving requires thoughtful planning and done cheerfully!  
~ vs. 8 – Believe God's promise; look at the words "all; abound, sufficiency."  
~ vs. 8 – Notice the purpose...not to get rich!!!  
~ vs. 9 – Again, believe the promise of God!

- 3.2) Malachi 3:6 – 10  
~ vs. 6 – God does not change!  
~ vs. 7 – Instruction to Israel, "Return to me," and I will return to you.  
~ vs. 7 – "How shall we return?"  
~ vs. 8 – John, have you robbed God? Not just finances BUT time (Ephesians 5)!  
~ vs. 8 – Tithes and contributions  
~ vs. 9 – John, do you desire to be blessed or cursed?

### Conclusion:

Philippians 4:10 – 20