

“THIS IS HOW WE DO IT”

PART 3

OUR OBJECTIVE: *STUDY THE BIBLE SCRIPTURES TO DISCOVER HOW WE AS BELIEVERS IN CHRIST JESUS LEARN HOW TO LIVE OUT GOD’S WORD AS WE RECEIVE IT INTO OUR HEARING.*

KEY SCRIPTURES: *JAMES 1:21-23/LUKE 11:28/MATTHEW 7:24
JOHN 14:15-18/TITUS 2:7/PSALM 119:105/MATTHEW 22:35-40
LUKE 10:25-37/2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-7*

A BIG PART OF OUR LIVING OUT THE WORD OF GOD IS IN OUR GIVING. THE VERY CHARACTER OF GOD IS GIVING. JOHN 3:16 SAYS THAT GOD SO LOVED, THAT HE GAVE. THE OUT POUR OF LOVE IS IN GIVING. WHAT IS AMAZING ABOUT HOW GOD LOVES IS IT IS UNCONDITIONAL. WHAT IS EQUALLY AWESOME WITH GOD IS HOW HE GIVES.

HOW WE GIVE AND HOW WE LOVE IS REVEALING IN HOW WE SERVE. MATTHEW 6:19-21.

OUR ABILITY TO GIVE IS NOT ABOUT EQUAL GIVING BUT IT IS ABOUT EQUAL SACRIFICE. WE GIVE TO DEMONSTRATE OUR GRATITUDE. SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY. WE GIVE IN HONOR TO HONOR HIS PROVISION.

- *LUKE 8:1-3*
- *PROVERBS 3:9-10*
- *2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-5/8*

OUR MINISTRY OF GIVING IS GOD’S DESIGN TO ENRICH OUR LIVES. WE CAN NEVER OUT GIVE GOD.

PSALM 116:12-17

BECAUSE GOD IS GENEROUS, WE ARE ALSO CALLED TO BE GENEROUS. GENEROSITY NOT ONLY POINTS OTHERS TO GOD, IT IS AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US.

“TO WHOM MUCH HAS BEEN GIVEN, MUCH MORE WILL BE EXPECTED.” THIS HAS BECOME A COMMON PHRASE IN WESTERN SOCIETY. ITS BIBLICAL ROOTS ARE IN LUKE 12:48. GENEROSITY HAS POSITIVE EFFECTS IN HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS. WHEN ONE PERSON GIVES FREELY TO ANOTHER, THE RECIPIENT OFTEN “PASSES FORWARD” THE GIFT. IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, THE IMPETUS IS MUCH GREATER. JESUS TAUGHT US THAT “IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE” (ACTS 20:35).

NOT ONLY DOES OUR GIVING DEMONSTRATE GOD’S CHARACTER TO THE WORLD, IT RESULTS IN INCREASED FAITH FOR US. WHEN WE ARE WILLING TO GIVE, WE DECLARE THAT OUR FAITH DOES NOT DEPEND ON MATERIAL POSSESSIONS. INSTEAD, WE SHOW THAT OUR FAITH IS IN GOD, WHO IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL TO PROVIDE (1 KINGS 17:7-16).