

# What the Bible Says about Generosity

Proverbs 11:24

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

Proverbs 19:17

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.

## INFORMATION

The so-called wisdom of the world differs greatly from the wisdom of God. The world might tell us that being generous will only lead us to poverty, or at least not to wealth. God's word tells us that this is not the case. Those who give freely according to the Spirit grow richer while those who withhold what they can and should give only lose more wealth. How can this be? How can giving instead of holding back cause an individual to grow richer? The answer is simple: God is a faithful God who remembers his promises and always fulfills them. All the wealth in the world is His! He distributes it as he sees fit.

God wants his people to think Godly thoughts. This is a tall order for our carnal selves, but God has provided the means for us to do that. God has provided his Word to us and we can read it, meditate on it and come to understand what his will for us is. This is an example of how Godly wisdom differs from carnal wisdom. It seems counter-intuitive that giving will make us richer, yet that is exactly what God says.

So, is this all there is? Of course not. The Bible has much to say about how we handle our money. We should study the Word of God to understand completely how God wants us to be good stewards of the financial means he provides us with. Above all, we need to remember that the Lord is the Most High God. We are to put him and his ways above all other things, including money.

## WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR FAMILY

Money is not an end in itself. We should not think of money as the means of our survival. God is the means for our survival. Also, we need to compare our decision making processes to those that God condones. Are we making decisions based solely on our own carnal understanding or are we striving to make decisions that are pleasing to God and follow his wisdom? At every decision point we need to pray for wisdom from God and to apply that wisdom to our decisions. Sometimes we will feel like a decision based on God's wisdom is counter-intuitive. There is a reason for this. We have perverse minds and are easily lured into falsehood. God never lies and his word endures forever. We need to surrender our own preferences to God's preference. In doing so, we will obtain a good report from God and he will remember his promises and will fulfill them with us.

## Relevant Passages

### **Proverbs 21:13**

Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

### **Matthew 7:12**

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

### **Matthew 10:42**

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

### **Luke 6:37-38**

Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.

### **Acts 20:35**

I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

### **1 John 3:17**

But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

### **2 Corinthians 9:7**

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.