

SHINE Devotional

Week 9 – Lesson 1



Giving Because There Is a Need

Scripture reading Acts 2:44-45

“And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.”

This past Sunday in church was Grand 1,000 Club Sunday. The Grand 1,000 Club is a ministry that we developed to help pay for the buildings and properties that house Liberty Baptist Church. Each year around this time, I ask each family to pray about giving \$1,000 to help eliminate the debt on our building and secure them for future generations. People ask, “Why is it so important that we have this property?” This property houses and supports every ministry of Liberty Baptist Church. That includes all of our church services, Liberty Baptist Academy, our Christian radio station, KVXL 101.1 FM, which reaches most of the Las Vegas valley, our Spanish services in Iglesia Bautista Libertad, our neighborhood farmer’s market which we host along with the Las Vegas Metro Police Department, Camp Liberty, AWANA, our world-wide mission’s outreach, our neighborhood Bible clubs, our public school Bible clubs and many city-wide community events.

Forty-two years ago, my wife and I came to Las Vegas and prayed for God to give us a base of operation. That base of operation is 6501 W. Lake Mead Boulevard. We give to Liberty Baptist Church is because we see the need in our community. We have seen God use this property to meet the needs of thousands of people. The Apostle John said, *“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?”* (1 John 3:17). Paul told Timothy to, *“Charge them... That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; [give]”* (1 Timothy 6:17-19). We encourage our church to give along with us to the Grand 1,000 Club because there is a need.

When you learn to give, you, as a believer will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 9 – Lesson 2



Giving Because of Personal Responsibility

Scripture reading Galatians 6:5-6

“For every man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.”

When Paul stated, “[B]ear his own burden”, he was simply stating that every believer should pay for what they received. The Word of God teaches personal responsibility. Paul told Timothy, *“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel”* (1 Timothy 5:8). Today, we live in a welfare society. People expect something for nothing. This is not a Christian principle. God wants you and me to be responsible for what we receive. When I go into a restaurant to have a nice dinner with my wife, we expect to pay for that dinner, which would include paying for the meal, building, and atmosphere where we dine. We pay for these things because it is our responsibility to do so. If we are going to enjoy that restaurant, we need to pay for that enjoyment.

David knew this was true when it came to worship. In 2 Samuel 24, we read the story of David wanting to buy a piece of property where he could worship God. The property was offered to him as a gift, but he said, *“Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing”* (2 Samuel 24:24). The local church is our spiritual home. We give to the Grand 1,000 Club because we feel a personal responsibility to help support this place where we worship.

When you as a believer takes on personal responsibility, you will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 9 – Lesson 3



Giving Because I Personally Benefit

Scripture reading 1 Corinthians 9:11

“If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?”

The Apostle Paul was teaching the Corinthian church the importance of giving back to the church because that was the place where they were fed the Word of God. Because of the Apostle Paul’s work, they were saved, being disciplined, and attending a local church where they could grow, fellowship, and be encouraged in the Word of God. Paul told them since he had given them spiritual things, they should take care of his physical necessities. We give to Liberty Baptist Church, and particularly the Grand 1,000 Club, because we are fed the Word of God at church. Not only that, we have fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ at church. The writer of Hebrews says, *“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Liberty Baptist Church meets my family’s needs. We have been fed the Word of God, have fellowship, and have raised our children in church. Every Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night service, our children had a place to go and be fed the Word of God on their level. Our teenagers had a youth department with fun activities and great teaching.

My wife and I have participated in couples’ retreats, and family life conferences that have benefited us. We have a place where our brothers and sisters in Christ pray for us when we have physical, spiritual or family needs. Giving to your local church makes sense because of the great benefits that you receive from the local church you attend. We praise God that on Sunday morning we can walk into our services and enjoy the music, atmosphere, padded chairs, and knowledge that our children are in a safe environment where they are hearing the Word of God as well. Let me encourage you to think of the benefits you receive from your local church and give. When you do, you will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 9 – Lesson 4



Give Because This Is the House of God

Scripture reading Malachi 3:10

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”

There are only three buildings in Scripture that God refers to as His house. The first was the tabernacle in the wilderness. God instructed Moses to build it, and he was told to go to the people of God and receive an offering in order to pay for the building of that tabernacle. The second house of God was the temple. The temple was constructed by Solomon after David had collected all the materials in order to build that house. Again, those materials were paid for by the people of God. In the New Testament when the first church met together in Acts 2, the house of God was the local church, which empowered by the Holy Spirit of God and the work was paid for by the people of God.

In our passage, God refers to the temple of Malachi’s day as His house and encourages His people to bring their tithes into that house. In 1 Timothy 3:15, Paul refers to the local church that Timothy pastored as the house of God. *“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God”* (1 Timothy 3:15). The house of God in the New Testament is the local church. Just as the Israelites were called upon to support the tabernacle and temple in the Old Testament, the New Testament instructs you and I, as believers, to support the local church. The local church represents God’s kingdom on this earth. Jesus said, *“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”* (Matthew 6:19-21). Since the local church is the house of God in today’s economy, we give to the local church. We particularly give to the Grand 1,000 Club because we know this is where God’s people meet and the local church is truly the house of God. When you support the local church, you support the house of God. When you do, you, as a believer, will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 9 – Lesson 5



Giving Because God Blesses Giving

Scripture reading Luke 6:38

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”

I first began to come to an understanding of this verse when I was studying for the ministry at Liberty Baptist College. Chuck Millhuff preached a message entitled “Giving Living,” which literally changed my life. I had watched my mother tithe and believed in tithing. I believed it was every Christians responsibility to tithe, but I did not understand the blessing that was associated with giving throughout the Word of God. Our passage here tells us that if we are faithful to give to the work of God, He will touch people to give to us. This promise is repeated over and over in Scripture. In Malachi, God says if we are faithful to tithe, He will pour out blessings we are not able to receive. Solomon said, *“Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase; So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.”* (Proverbs 3:9-10). The Apostle Paul says, *“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver”* (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). When you read these verses and many others, you should be reminded that God will bless you as you give.

I learned and have practiced these principles early in my adult life and with my wife in my marriage. My wife and I have watched God bless our lives financially in ways that have been amazing. As your pastor, I want to encourage you to learn to give. When you do, you will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 9 – Lesson 6



Giving Because It Is More Blessed to Give Than to Receive

Scripture reading 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.”

It was time to reenroll for my second semester as a student studying for the ministry at Liberty Baptist College. I had all the reenrollment papers filled out. The money that I was supposed to use for reenrollment, I gave during a special offering and had no money left for reenrollment. I ran out of money. God had a special lesson He wanted me to learn. That lesson was proper stewardship. If God gives you money for school, you use it for school. After a time of prayer, I walked to the school, and stood in line for registration. When I got to the registration desk, the President of the school was sitting behind the desk. I got down on my knees so I could look at him eye to eye across the desk. I told him I did not have the money to register. He asked me, “Why not?” I explained to him I gave my registration money away in a special love offering. He rolled his eyes as though I was a stupid kid (and I was). He asked me how I intended to pay for the next semester. I explained to him that somebody had promised to supply my needs that summer (the person I was speaking of was Jesus). He asked me if that person was reliable. I said, “He has never let me down yet.” He said, “Okay, I will let you in.” I was allowed to go to school that semester. Later God provided a job to pay for that college year and my entire tuition. Having been on both sides of the equation I can tell you, it certainly is more blessed to be able to give than to have to receive.

Today, I would remind you that the church was started through giving. Jesus said, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* (John 3:16). God gave you His Son so that you could have eternal life. When you live your life giving so that others can live, your life reflects the life of Jesus Christ, and you will SHINE.