

GIVING AND RECEIVING

Dec 20, 2015

I. Christmas is about God giving His Son.

Christmas is a revelation of God's economy, it operates on the principle of giving and receiving.

A. God gives

Jn 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

B. We receive

Jn 1:11-13 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

C. The matter (principle) of giving and receiving Phil 4:15-20

You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; 16 for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. 17 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. ... 19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

II. What God gives

A. Jesus - God's best gift

Jn 3:16 God so loved the world that he gave his only son

Jn 4:10 If you knew the gift of God

2Cor 9:15 thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift

Tit 2:14 he (Jesus) gave himself for us

B. His Spirit - the Holy Spirit (Lk 11:13; Rom 5:5; Ac 15:8; 2Cor 5:5; Gal 3:5).

1. The Holy Spirit is the promise of God (Ac 1:4; 2:33, 38; Lk 24:49; Eph 1:13; Gal 3:14)

2. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Ac 2:38; 1Thes 4:8).

3. God gave us the Spirit as a pledge of our inheritance (2Cor 1:22).

4. God gives His Spirit without measure (Jn 3:34)

5. We receive the Spirit so that we might understand what God has given to us (1Cor 2:12).

C. Spiritual gifts (1Pt 4:10; Heb. 2:4; 1Cor 1:7; Rom 1:11)

1. When Jesus ascended He gave gifts to men (Eph 4:8).

2. We all have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us (1Cor 12; Rom 12:6).

3. Everyone has his own gift from God (1Cor 12:7-10).

4. Don't neglect the spiritual gift within you (1Tim 4:14).

5. We need to rekindle the gift of God (2Tim 1:6).

D. Other gifts from God:

1. **Children** - Ps 127:3 children are a gift of the Lord

2. **Wisdom** - Pr 2:6 the Lord gives wisdom

3. **Ministry** - Eph 3:2,7 serving in ministry is a gift from God

4. **Eternal life** - Rom 6:23 The gift of God is eternal life

5. **Salvation** - Eph 2:8 salvation is the gift of God (Rom 5:15-16)

6. **Grace** - Eph 2:8 grace is the gift of God (Eph 1:6-8)

7. **Faith** - Eph 2:8 faith is the gift of God (Rom 5:15, 17)

8. **Repentance and forgiveness** of sins - (Ac 5:31; 11:18)

9. **Justification** - Rom 3:24 being justified as a gift by His grace

10. **Righteousness** - Rom 5:17 the gift of righteousness

11. **Peace** - Jn 14:27 peace I leave with you, my peace I give you

12. **Heritage of the nations** - Ps 111:6 God gives His people

13. **Eating and drinking** - Eccl 3:13 eating and drinking are God's gift to man

E. God gives the land of Canaan:

1. **To Abraham** (Gen 13:17; 15:7; 17:8).
2. **To Abraham's descendents** (Gen 12:7; 13:15; 15:18; 24:7; 26:4; 28:13; 48:4)
3. **To Israel** (Ex 6:4, 8; 12:25; 13:11; 20:12; Lev 14:34; 20:24; 23:10; 25:2, 38; Nu 10:29; 14:8; Dt. 1:20, 25; 3:20; 4:21, 40; 5:16, 31; 6:23; 9:6; 11:17, 31; 12:1, 9, 10; 15:4; 16:20; 17:14; 19:10, 14; 21:23; 26:1; 27:2, 3; 28:8; 32:49, 52; Jos 1:2, 3, 11; 2:9, 14; Jer 3:19; Ezk 11:17)

F. Facts about God's gifts:

1. God gives life and breath to all people (Ac 17:25).
2. Every good thing and perfect gift is from God, the Father of lights (Jas 1:17).
3. God gives to all who ask (Mt 7:7, 11; Lk 11:9).
4. God gives what is good (Mt 7:11).
5. God gives generously and without reproach (Jas 1:5).
6. The gifts of God are without repentance (Rom 11:29).
7. God gives the desires of your heart (Psa 37:4).
8. God wants to give us more.
Mt 13:12 to him who has will more be given (Mt 25:29; Mk 4:25; Lk 8:18; 19:26)
9. God wants us to understand His desire to give to us.
Rom 8:32 he who did not spare his own Son will with him freely give us all things
10. God gives to the poor (2Cor 9:9).

II. Our Giving

A. God gives to the poor:

1. When you give to a poor man, you lend to the Lord, He will repay you (Pr 19:17).
2. He who gives to the poor will not want (Prov. 28:27).
3. We are to give to the poor (Mt 6:2-4; Rom 12:13; 15:26; 2Cor 8:3-4; 7-15; 9:1-15).

B. How we are to give:

1. Give to him who asks you (Mt 5:42).
2. Give and it will be given to you (Lk 6:38).
3. Jesus said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Ac 20:35)
4. We give with a willing heart (Rom. 12:8).
5. We give freely, because freely you have received (Mt 10:8).
6. We give cheerfully because - God loves a cheerful giver (2Cor 9:7).

C. Giving helps you receive

1. Giving helps you to receive more.

Mt 10:8 freely you have received, freely give

2. Prayer is the instrument of faith, by which we receive.

Mt 7:8 Everyone who asks receives (Lk 11:10)

Mt 21:22 you will receive believing, whatever you ask for in prayer.

3. Your ability to receive determines your walk with God.

Col. 2:6 as you received Christ, so walk in him

1Cor 4:7 what do you have that you did not receive?

4. We need to receive grace upon grace

Jn 1:14,16-17 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. 16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized (literally; came to be) through Jesus Christ.

5. We respond to God by receiving His Word (Ac 11:1; 17:11).