

Are You a Giver or a Getter?

Reading, listening to or studying the bible is like looking into a mirror (*James 1:23-24*). The longer you look at yourself the more you see and get a clear view of yourself. When it comes to the act of giving, a lot of us should spend a lot of time looking into that mirror. As wealthy Americans, many of us have spent our lives in “the pursuit of happiness” or should I say, “Working so we can get more stuff.” We buy and consume way more than we need or deserve and if we’re not careful we’ll fall into the snare of perpetual consumerism. *1 Timothy 6:6-19* warns those of us who have been blessed materially that “*the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil*” (v.10) and to beware lest we fall into temptation and perdition, straying from the faith because of our greediness. If we have food on the table and clothes on our backs we are to be content because “*godliness with contentment is great gain.*” (v.6) Godliness includes being rich in good deeds, ready to give and willing to share our blessings with others. (v. 18)

God has always wanted His people to show benevolence to those in need. He included instructions for helping the poor in the Law of Moses (*Deuteronomy 15:7-11*) and continues those directions into the Christian age. Not only are we to give an offering from the heart to the church each week (*1 Corinthians 16:1-2*) but as we have opportunity, do good to all people all of the time. (*Galatians 6:10*). Jesus assured us that if we give it will be given back to us and with the amount we give, we’ll be blessed with as much so that we can give again (*Luke 6:38*). Therefore, let us always be givers rather than getters.

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