

Giving That Feels Good

Take God at His Word - Part 1

Life Church St. Louis June 15, 2025
Lead Pastor Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv

Pray Daily for your Five Friends Focus

Introduction

Psalms 119:105 (ESV) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV) Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Matthew 6:33 (ESV) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

1. Motivation #1: Guilt (“Have to” Giving)

2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV) Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Romans 8:1 (ESV) There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2. Motivation #2: Responsibility – “Ought to” Giving

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV) But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

James 4:17 (ESV) So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

3. Motivation #3: Needs – “Want to” Giving

2 Corinthians 8:13-14 (ESV) For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need.

1 John 3:17-18 (ESV) But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

4. Motivation #4: Thanksgiving – “Can’t Help It” Giving

Luke 17:17 (ESV) Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?”

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (ESV) He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

5. Motivation #5: Worship – “It’s My Nature” Giving

2 Corinthians 8:5 (ESV) And this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

Philippians 4:18 (ESV) I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 (ESV) They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share... thus storing up treasure... so they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Giving That Feels Good Study Guide

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Introduction

1. What does it mean to you personally to take God at His Word?
2. In what ways do you rely on God's Word for guidance in practical areas of your life? (Psalm 119:105)
3. How can trusting God with all your heart influence your decisions about finances? (Proverbs 3:5-6)
4. What might it look like to seek God's kingdom first in your financial life? (Matthew 6:33)

1. Guilt - "Have To" Giving

1. Why is it important to evaluate the motivations behind your giving? (2 Corinthians 9:7)
2. How does understanding that there is no condemnation in Christ change your attitude toward giving? (Romans 8:1)
3. How can you move from giving out of guilt to giving with joy and freedom in your relationship with God?

2. Responsibility - "Ought To" Giving

1. How can giving be an expression of spiritual maturity? (2 Corinthians 8:7)
2. Why is it important to balance a sense of responsibility with joy when giving? (James 4:17)
3. What steps can you take this week to ensure your giving is an act of devotion, not merely a duty?

3. Needs - "Want To" Giving

1. How does meeting the needs of others reflect the heart of God? (2 Corinthians 8:13-14)
2. What does it mean to love not just in words but in actions and truth when it comes to giving? (1 John 3:17-18)
3. How can you cultivate a heart that is both compassionate and consistent in your giving?

4. Thanksgiving - "Can't Help It" Giving

1. Why do you think thankfulness is not always an automatic response to God's blessings? (Luke 17:17)
2. How does recognizing that God is the source of all provision impact your motivation to give? (2 Corinthians 9:10-11)
3. How can you intentionally incorporate gratitude into your practice of giving this week?

5. Worship - "It's My Nature" Giving

1. What does it mean to give yourself first to the Lord, and how does that influence your financial giving? (2 Corinthians 8:5)
2. How can viewing your giving as a fragrant offering change your perspective on generosity? (Philippians 4:18)
3. In what ways can worshipful giving lead you to experience the "true life" God desires for you? (1 Timothy 6:18-19)
4. How can you prepare your heart so that your giving is an act of worship, not just a financial transaction?

Conclusion

1. What is one truth from God's Word about giving that you feel God is highlighting for you right now?
2. How can you practically take steps from fear to faith in your finances this week?