

CELEBRATING HOPE THROUGH GIVING

On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Matthew 2:11 (NIV)

❖ God Loves to Give:

1. God OWNS EVERYTHING.

The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him.
Psalm 24:1 (NLT)

2. God has SHARED His EVERYTHING with me.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

Psalm 84:11 (NIV)

3. God loves us so much, His EVERYTHING includes His SON, JESUS.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NIV)

4. When we accept God's great gifts, we also accept God's GREAT MISSION.

Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

John 20:21 (NIV)

❖ Discovering the Joy of Giving:

1. First, give YOURSELF.

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask?

Romans 12:1 (NLT)

2. Second, give BACK.

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

1 Chronicles 29:14 (NIV)

3. Third, give PROPORTIONATELY.

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD Almighty, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you!"

Malachi 3:10 (NLT)

"How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest part of your income, but you ignore the important things of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but you should not leave undone the more important things."

Matthew 23:23 (NLT)

4. Fourth, give CHEERFULLY.

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

5. Fifth, give PURPOSEFULLY.

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

2 Corinthians 9:10-13 (NIV)

6. Sixth, give EXPECTANTLY.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

7. Seventh, give ETERNALLY.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

❖ Chets Creek Gives:

But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)

- You gave over 750 Thanksgiving Dinners to needy families in our city.
- You sent out over 550 Samaritan Purse Shoe Boxes around the world.
- You provided over 525 Christmas Gifts to 80+ foster kids in our city.
- We have had 230 families make a commitment to date.