

# The Giving Cycle

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- I. **Nestled in the word “forgive” is the word “give.” The ultimate gift you can give is to forgive others when they mistreat you (Luke 23:32-35).**
  - A. Giving is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian—to be God-like (Romans 5:6-8).
  - B. Jesus is the “indescribable gift of God” (II Corinthians 9:15) who gives us the gift of eternal life—fellowship with God forever (John 3:16).
  - C. Radical giving is at the core of being a Christian. In the end the Father’s highest goal for us is to be “merciful just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:27-36).
  
- II. **Generosity has many forms. The measure we receive is connected to what we measure out to others (Luke 6:37-38).**
  - A. “For-giving” is the most powerful gift we can give (Luke 6:37). What happens inside of us after we let others off the hook is our own sense of being forgiven and a sense of peace and well-being.
  - B. “A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over” is within everyone’s reach through the cycle of giving and receiving. “For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” (Luke 6:38).
  
- III. In Paul’s request to the Corinthians to help the poor in Jerusalem, we see the powerful multi-dimensional effects of being generous to others (II Corinthians 9:6).
  - A. “God loves a cheerful giver,” because He is a cheerful giver (II Corinthians 9:7). There is a lovely, joyful partnership that develops between God and us when we adopt a generous lifestyle.
  - B. How our generosity affects us and those around us.
    1. Abundance—“In all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (II Corinthians 9:8).
    2. Righteousness that endures forever (II Corinthians 9:9)
    3. God gives us even more seed to give and an even larger harvest of righteousness and good deeds (II Corinthians 9:10-11).
    4. A release of many expressions of worship and thanksgiving to God as the recipients of our giving praise God for the blessings they have received (II Corinthians 9:12-13).
  - C. Do not underestimate the power of the prayers of blessing from the recipients of your gifts (II Corinthians 9:14).
  - D. All of this is Christlike behavior that glorifies Jesus. “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift” (II Corinthians 9:15).
  - E. “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).
  - F. Example of The Giving Tree

*Mike Hudgins  
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