

Flow

Part Four: *sharing & serving*

December 10, 2023

Of the keywords used in the Bible, the word "believe" is used 272 times, "pray" is used 371 times, and "love" is used 714 times, but the word "give" is used 2162 times. *The Bible is filled with giving because...*

- **God is a great giver and wants His children to be great givers.**

What is giving?

- **Giving is sharing some of the money and possessions God has given you.**

God owns all things. So, giving is sharing some of the money and possessions God has given you. You are God's steward, and He wants you to invest His resources wisely (Matthew 25:14-30).

"Then David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly: ...Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom. ...Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything. O our God, we thank you and praise your glorious name! But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!" (1 Chronicles 29:10–14, NLT)

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him." (Psalm 24:1, NLT)

"For all the animals of the forest are mine, and I own the cattle on a thousand hills." (Psalm 50:10, NLT)

"The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies." (Haggai 2:8, NLT)

"The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything since He himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything." (Acts 17:24–25, ESV)

Five reasons you should share with others:

1. Giving pleases God. Hebrews 13:15-16
2. Giving shows you're thankful. Psalm 116:12
3. Giving helps others and shows you love them. 1 John 3:16-18
4. Giving grows your faith. James 2:14-17
5. Giving makes you happy. Acts 20:35

What do you have to do before you can be a great giver?

- **You must give yourself to the Lord. 2 Corinthians 8:1–5**

Do you want to be a great giver? Give yourself to the Lord! You will never give away some of God's resources until you understand that you are one of His resources.

What is serving?

- **Serving is sharing some of the time and energy God has given you.**

God owns all things. So, serving is sharing some of the time and energy God has given you. You are God's steward, and He wants you to invest His resources wisely (Matt. 25:14-30).

Why should you serve?

- **You should serve for the same reasons you should give.**

You should serve others because serving pleases God. Serving shows you are thankful. Serving helps others and shows you love them. Serving grows your faith. And serving makes you happy!

Grace-filled Christians do not hoard the good things God has given them. Grace-filled Christians share and serve because they know everything they have belongs to the Lord – including themselves.