



“We are Happier when we Give”

Acts 20:35b

Some people think God is a “cosmic killjoy” Who gives us commandments and rules to make us miserable and eliminate all our fun.

- For example: “You shall not commit adultery.”
- For example: “Give to Me of your first fruits.”

However:

What if God’s commands are not designed to kill joy but to give abundant joy?

- For example: “You shall not commit adultery.”
- For example: “Give to Me of your first fruits.”
- What if God loves joy, values joy, gives joy, and aches for us to have joy?

In His Word:

What does God say will enhance our joy?

- Acts 20:35b, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (“..greater happiness...”)
- Deuteronomy 18:4: _____
- 1 Corinthians 16:2: _____

Why does God say we should give to Him faithfully and first?

- So we will be happier.
- So we will have greater impact.
- So we will have the joy of obedience.
- So we will trust Him more.
- So we will have security and all that we need.
- So we will imitate Him by giving.
- So we will worship Him by giving.
- So we will grow spiritually.
- So we will enrich others.
- So we will impact eternity.
- So we will draw our hearts to heaven.

How do we do this?

- *Believe* that God is giving us a way to gain joy through giving. Make a decision.
- *Commit* to some level of regular giving—maybe increase by 1%.

Live differently:

In order to gain more joy in my life:

- *Give* some amount regularly to CBC general fund. Personal accountability Card.
- *Give* some amount regularly to CBC missions fund. Faith Promise Card.
- *Utilize* our online giving at www.cypressbible.org.
- *Commit* to gain joy through using a budget: “Pay God. Pay yourself. Pay others.”

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week

Idea: “It is more blessed to give than receive.” Jesus. Acts 20:35.

Monday: Please read Acts 20:35.

- How would you paraphrase this verse in your own words?
- Can you think of examples in your life when this has been true?

Tuesday: Please read Deuteronomy 18:4.

- What are the giving principles from this verse?
- What are the things you might need to change in your giving habits?

Wednesday: Please read 1 Corinthians 16:2.

- What are the giving principles from this verse?
- What are the things you might need to change in your giving habits?

Thursday: Please read all the reasons under “Why does God say we should give to Him faithfully and first?” on the other side of this paper.

- Are there reasons to give here that you have not thought about before?
- Does this sound like a list of items that God has designed to rob joy or give joy?

Friday: God’s economy is “180 degrees out” from the World’s economy. The World says, “Get all you can. Can all you get. Sit on the can.”

- In contrast to the World’s economy what does God say? Can you list five principles that would really make no sense to a person who does not have the Holy Spirit to teach them?

Saturday: Please take some time for prayer today—at least 15 to 30 minutes—to speak to God about your personal giving and to listen to God about your personal giving.

- Record any thoughts here: _____
