

America is said to be the most generous nation on earth. Some people give to gain a tax deduction. Others give out of a sense of obligation. But a better reason to give is to be a channel of God's blessings. When God gives to us, part of what He gives is to go to those in need. Think about an open hand: If I keep my hands open before God, He is free to take from my hands anything He wants. But, if my hand is open, God is also free to deposit into my hand anything, anytime, He wants.

Henry Drummond, a contemporary of D.L. Moody said it this way: "the entrance fee into God's kingdom is nothing, but the annual dues are everything." You don't work to become a Christian. But when you become a Christian, then your whole life is caught up in living out the Christ life – and it's not a "walk in the park." Note the following five principles:

- I. Generosity – Rom 12:8
  - To give generously means to give with joy, with eagerness, without any ulterior motives, giving purely out of a generous desire to help those who are in need. See Acts 4:36-37, II Cor 8:1-4
- II. Sincerity – Rom 12:9
  - There is no reward from God for giving that is done hypocritically, based on a desire for people to think well of us. God wants us to give out of a sincere faith – a faith that recognizes the generosity of God.
- III. Humility – Rom 12:10
  - Any one of us would be willing to wash the feet of Jesus if asked, but how many of us are ready to wash the feet (sacrificially serve) the least of those among us? An openhearted and openhanded person will.
- IV. Sympathy – Rom 12:13a
  - Deut 15:11 is a powerful verse in this regard
- V. Hospitality – Rom 12:13b
  - "given to hospitality" – speaks to one of the most gracious ways to demonstrate openhanded living. And hospitality is not just waiting until someone knocks on our door. Rather, it is reaching out to those in need and inviting them to partake of what the Lord has given us.

Ques: 1. Read Acts 20:32-35 how tightly did the apostle Paul hold what was in his hand (or seek to hold what belonged to others)? Vs 33

2. In what way(s) do you think it is more blessed to give than to receive?

Happy Studying