



Weekly Devotion

Weekly Devotion for September 2 ***Blessed Through Obedient Giving***

by Ray Wardlaw

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?”

— **1 John 3:16,17**

Pastors were gathered for a time of training and encouragement up in the hills above San Bernardino, CA. I had traveled 90 minutes to attend. Some had traveled farther, and some were from the surrounding area. The speaker of the morning session was introduced and began to speak when I sensed the Lord directing me to write a check to a young and newly assigned pastor named Scott. I looked around, and he was two rows behind me. I had what I thought were some great reasons why the Lord could have another pastor in attendance aid Scott if he had a financial need. The morning went by quickly, and I was just leaving for lunch when I sensed the Lord's direction again.

I returned from lunch and hoped Scott might have decided to skip the afternoon session, but as I turned around, he was there. So, I pulled out my checkbook and wrote the amount the Lord seemed to impress upon me to give. As the afternoon session ended, I quickly handed the check to Scott and headed home. I was at peace, and I thought that was the end of it.

Two days later, a thank-you letter arrived with a description of the bills they were able to pay with that check. I did not know their needs, but the Lord did and asked me to deliver for Him. I am so grateful for the multiplied blessings from being obedient that Tuesday afternoon.

Journaling:

How have you experienced God's blessing in your life when you have given obediently? Have you ever seen God's blessing in the ministry of Desert Hills Lutheran Church when the church has provided for those in need?

Have you considered that the Lord knows how much you can contribute when you see someone in need?

