

When you give, you gain perspective.

Spending money on other people *feels* right. People often regret something they buy, but they rarely regret something they give.

Spending money can be fun – new clothes, new restaurants, a new car. Nothing wrong with those things. But deep down, they don't really satisfy. But when we give or serve with our money, we somehow know we're doing something more important.

Matthew 6:21 says:

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Bible teaches that money isn't solely a financial issue...it's primarily a spiritual issue. Your money and your heart are connected. Where you send your money says something about what you truly value, and when you give, it's a statement on what's truly important.

When you give, you're making an intentional statement that something matters. This thing over here, that person over there, God's mission through this church...it matters. It deserves my attention, focus and support.

Eternity matters, and when you give, you're shifting your perspective.

When you give, you partner with God .

God INVITES us to join Him. Because He's God, He doesn't NEED us, but He WANTS us. We don't invite God into our lives; He invites us into His!

While God doesn't NEED us, He invites us to participate. And when you give, that's what you're doing. You join with God in His mission in the world.

You give because the Gospel needs to be heard. You don't just give to *this church* – you give as a part of a worldwide movement, joining with churches in North America, South America, China, the Ukraine, England, Africa and even Pennsylvania.

There is something bigger going on around us. More than the here and now.

And when you give, you're a part of what God is doing everywhere.

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Revere, Connect, Contribute

Why Give?

“Riverside exists so that people will find and follow Jesus.”

To Give:



When you give, you fulfill your purpose.

You were created in the image of God.

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26-27

The Image of God is a theological concept that means you and I and everybody on earth was imprinted with God's image when we were created. There's something deep inside us that is *like* God. Like a son who has his Father's eyes, you have a resemblance to God.

God is generous.

When you read the Bible and start to piece together information about God, one of those pieces is God's generosity. You read things like, "God is love" in 1 John 4:8. Just how generous is God? Check out this Bible verse -

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

How generous is God?
He gave His one and only Son!

When you give, you make God smile.

I bet it's hard to picture a smiling face of God. Culture paints a picture of an angry God, God with a *frowny* face. Or a Zeus-like God with a lightning bolt in His hand. A lot of people think God's motto is *I'm gonna getcha*.

But the biblical image for God is a father. But not just any father, a perfect, loving Father. God is our father, and we are His children.

1 John 3:1 says -

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

God, the perfect heavenly Father, loves His children.

God just loves it when you give. When you put others first. When you give things away instead of saying, "that's mine."

When you give, you make God smile.

When you give, you position yourself for blessing.

The apostle Paul wrote a letter to a group of Christians living in the first century city of Philippi. You have that letter in your Bible - Philippians. In the first part of his letter, Paul thanked the Philippians for their generosity and their partnership. They had contributed to his ministry as a missionary and a preacher. The Christians who lived in Philippi were generous supporters.

We believe there is a clear connection between our generosity and God's provision.

Philippians 4:19 says,

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:32 says,

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

God is a generous God, giving us many blessings in life. But these blessings from God are not limited to the financial realm. A \$100 contribution may not result in a \$100 blessing, but I do know this...you will be blessed in some way. And just because those blessings may not be financial doesn't mean they are not important. If the best things in life can't be bought with money, perhaps the most important blessings from God are not financial.