



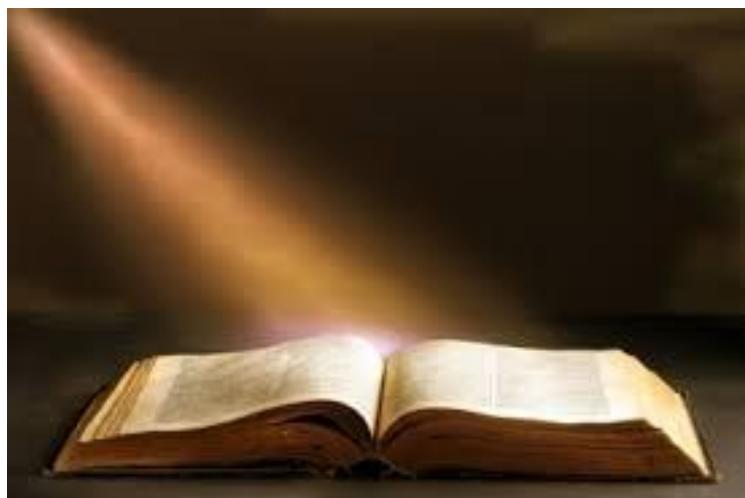
Basic Christianity





"¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17



"The entrance of your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple."

Psalm 119:130

***Note: All Scriptures in this study is either from NIV or NKJV**



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Global Good News Literature Correspondence Course

These lessons can be used for individual or group Bible Study. They can also be used by a person who has the responsibility of teaching new believers or discipleship classes. For those of you who would like to take the course with us, you would have to register and get your Student ID from us. The main purpose of this correspondence course is to help new believers and those who would like to strengthen their Christian foundation, send their roots down and grow in the Lord, by learning the basic concepts or foundational truths of Christianity.

As it is said, "You can bring a horse to the water but you cannot force him to drink"; unless the student follows up these lessons diligently and reads the scripture references carefully, he/she cannot get the full benefit of the courses. We encourage everyone to study these lessons with an open Bible so that you can read the verses for yourselves. We also encourage you to have your own notebook where you can write the things the Holy Spirit teaches you through these lessons.

Then you can continue the correspondence course by sending the answers to the questions that are at the end of each lesson.

This course contains twelve foundational lessons divided into three parts. If the contents of these lessons are taken seriously and applied accordingly, they would help the student to be firmly established in his/her Christian walk with the Lord. To achieve this desired target, we encourage the student to do the questions at the end of each lesson in a thoughtful manner where the answers are found within each preceding lesson.

For those who would like to correspond with us, we would like you to send us the answers for each section (Part I, II and III) so that we can check your answers and send you a certificate of completion.



Lesson Eight

GIVING

Giving starts from giving ourselves to God. The basis for our giving is how much our heart is given to God. Before the Word of God asks us to give anything else, it asks us to give ourselves.

“My son, give me your heart
and let your eyes delight in my ways.” Proverbs 23:26

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.”
Romans 12:1

“...Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the LORD today?”
1 Chronicles 29:5

Where there is Love, there is Giving

“For God so loved the world He gave...” John 3:16

Likewise, if we love God it would not be hard for us to give ourselves and what belongs to us to him. He first loved us and gave himself (his only son) to us. Love is always expressed in giving; giving ourselves, our time our talent and our treasure.

“If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:17-18



When the Love of Christ is shed in our heart, his heart of giving starts getting into our heart, as it is written, ‘we have the heart of Christ’.

We ourselves and everything we have belongs to God’s

David prayed like this, “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”
1 Chron. 29:14

In the New Testament, we are told, “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” 1 Cor. 6:19-20

Strictly speaking, we don’t even own ourselves, we are His. Specially, as born again believers, Jesus paid his own life on the cross to redeem us (buy us back) for himself. We are just stewards of what belongs to Him. The question is, ‘how good stewards we are?’ As the saying goes, ‘Your life is God’s gift to you, what you make of your life is your gift to God.’

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” 1 Cor. 4:2

Different kinds of Giving

1. Tithes

Tithe is one tenth of whatever we get.



“Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.” Gen 14:20,
Heb 7:1-3

“... the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD.” Leviticus 27:32
(NKJV)

Tithe is mainly giving for the purpose of administering the local church.

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” Malachi 3:10

God is concerned with his house, ‘that there may be food in my house.’ Just as we are concerned if there is no food in our house, God is saying the tithe is to take care of His house.

When we don’t give our tithes, God considers it as stealing from him, because the tenth already belongs to Him.

“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’

“In tithes and offerings.” Malachi 3:8

Even though we give our tithes through the Church or through the servants of God, we are giving it to our Lord Jesus Christ himself.

“Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he *receives them*, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.” Hebrews 7:8 (NKJV)



2. Offering

Offering is what we give to God above and beyond our tithe, which already belongs to him. We can give our offering to our local church or to any other work of the Lord.

3. Sacrificial giving

This kind of giving is when we give until it hurts, not just from our surplus. We read in the scriptures how that widow who had nothing gave it all to God. Jesus himself testified for her.

“Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.” Mark 12:41-44

This kind of giving is only done by Faith because it is a giving that is done in the presence of our own need. Just as Jesus said, ‘Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and it’s righteousness and all this things will be added unto you.’ When we give sacrificially, we are seeing God’s kingdom’s need before our own.



Just as a farmer sows those precious seeds on the ground hoping and believing that they would come back many times over, so is sacrificial giving.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” 2 Cor. 9:6

4. Alms (to the poor)

“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.” Proverbs 19:17

“If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:17-18

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” James 1:27

5. Giving for the sake of the Gospel

This is when we give specifically for the spread of the Gospel to those who have not heard it. The Gospel is the main reason why Jesus came to our world clothed in flesh.

After he accomplished what he came for, he gave his disciples his last command, the ‘Great Commission’, to go in to all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. Even though the Gospel is free, the pipeline, the means to take it to those who need to hear it, costs money. The only way God planned for his Gospel to be financed is through the generous loving gifts of His own people.



How shall we give?

1. Do it ‘as unto the Lord’ – Not to show off

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” Matthew 6:1-4

2. Do it generously, not sparingly

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” 2 Cor. 9:6

3. Do it cheerfully, willingly, and from your heart

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor. 9:7

“Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to



the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly.” 1
Chronicles 29:9

The Blessing in Giving

“And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38

“Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

Malachi 3:10

In short, true giving that is motivated by true love, opens God’s blessing towards us. However, the motive has to be right. It is not ‘Give to Get’. It is ‘Give because you Love God with all your heart’.

When we give, we are investing in God’s Eternal Bank. “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21

May the Lord reveal to us the secret of Giving!



Lesson 8 – GIVING - Quiz

(Please give your answers on a separate piece of paper)

Student ID #:

Student Name:

Address:

1. What is the source of true giving?
2. What should we keep in mind as we give to God?
3. Describe different kinds of Giving.
4. What manner of giving is acceptable before God?
5. What is the blessing of giving?
6. How faithful are you in your giving? What more needs to be done?