**RISE UP** in 2021

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**MAKING CHANGE**

***Giving is Good – John 6:5-13***



What is the goal of this series?

*They are to* ***do good****, to* ***be rich in good works****, to be* ***generou****s and* ***ready to share****, thus* ***storing up treasure*** *for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.*

1 Timothy 6:18–19

Our goal is to truly **live** a rich **life**.

You have to ***choose***that you want to***change.***

Four changes in the way we think and live:

* Less is More
* Stress is Bad
* Giving is Good
* Tomorrow Matters

Do not hear this:

Giving **solves** everything.

In this world, you will have troubles ...

-sometimes our messaging seems like we are saying believe in God, make wise decisions, everything will be great – NOPE!

- believe in God, make wise decisions, be generous, everything will be great – NOPE!

Give to **get**.

Giving something because you expect to get something; that is called buying or exchanging.

Giving does not make you more valuable, more important, more loved.

God **needs** your money.

God’s will is certain – it will happen. It will be done.

Guilt. **Shame**. Condemnation.

You are not giving YET

Show me the **money**!

Hear this:

Giving is **good**.

*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

Acts 20:35

What happens when we give?

L*ifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat? He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do.**Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6%3A5-13&version=ESV#fen-ESV-26253a)*] worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.” One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him,**“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.*

J*ohn 6:5-13*

When we give, we honor **God**.

By giving, the boy honored Jesus.

**Everything** is God’s.

*You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.*

Deuteronomy 8:18

Scripture commands us to give the **first** fruits.

Tithe: the tenth part of agricultural produce or personal income set apart as an offering to God

Our hearts are **connected** to our treasure.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.  For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

By giving, we are connected to Jesus

When we give, we bless **others**.

We are called to serve others.

Galatians 6:2, Hebrews 13:16, Matthew 5:42, Proverbs

19:17

Jesus modeled this when he saw the hungry crowd.

The boy gave his bread and fish; generosity blesses others.

*There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.*

Acts 4:34-35

Take a moment to think of a gift someone has given you.

How did you feel? Did that bless you?

When you give to the Fellowship, you are giving to God’s work here. Have you ever stopped and thought about all the ways your gift blesses others?

-Fellowship Kids: teaching them about Jesus

-Marriages saved, hope after divorce, hope even in grief and loss, recovery from addiction

-Missions Outreach – sponsored kids, flood relief, Mac n Cheese (Turkeys), Run4Children, Friends of Sundown, Operation Backpack, etc.

-Salvations, Baptisms, Lives Transformed

When we give, **we** are blessed.

*Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts…*

*Malachi 3:10a*

*… if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.* *I will rebuke the devourer[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Malachi+3%3A10-12&version=ESV#fen-ESV-23132a)*] for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts.**Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.*

*Malachi 3:10b-12*

The boy was blessed to see Jesus turn his lunch into a huge buffet for 5,000! That boy likely never doubted God’s ability to bless him again.

True story of Eddie Ogan an grandmother from Washington. She wrote this story about her, her sisters, and their widowed mom in 1946.

Some people know what is means to be truly generous. They get it, and they live a rich life knowing who they serve and whose they are.

When we **give**, we honor **God**, we bless **others**, and **we** are blessed.

Most of you know this ... we should give. You got it before you walked in here today. But most people do not give.

3 to 5% of all adult churchgoers actually tithe.

Average giving per churchgoer is $884 per year.

So collectively, we might know that giving is good; we may believe that giving is good, but that has not made it way to our actions.

Why don’t we give?

* We have a scarcity mindset.
* We are stressed and struggling.
* We have seen this message abused.
* We have not chosen to change.
* We do not trust God.

You have to **choose** that you want to **change**.

90 Day Giving Challenge