**Faith to Give**

Sunday School Lesson 3

*Faith in Action*

1 Timothy 6:10

5/19/2024

**Introduction & Recap:** In last week’s lesson, we looked at how faith leads us to help others. Today, we are going to be looking at how faith prompts us to give and to be generous people. Before we look at the objects of the lesson, let’s recap quickly what we covered last week. First, we noted that we are able to help others because we believe that the Lord can use what we have. Our example was the young lad with five loaves and two small fishes. He gave his lunch willingly and trusted that the Lord could take what he had and use it to do something great to help others. Second, we noted that we can help others because we believe that the Lord can help them. Peter and John were able to help the lame man outside the temple because they had faith that the Lord could help the man. Likewise, if we are going to truly help others, we must believe that the Lord can help them. Third, we noted that we are able to help others because we believe that the Lord will help them. We don’t just believe in His ability, but we also believe in His desire. We know that the Lord wants to help mankind. The men who climbed the roof to help their friend clearly believed that the Lord was going to help him. That leads us to the next observation. We can help others because our faith prompts us to go to extraordinary means to bring others to Him. Again, we look to the men on the roof as our example. They were so convinced that the Lord would help that it prompted them to go the extra mile to help their friends. Our faith in the power of the Lord ought to stir us to do whatever just thing we can do to bring people to Jesus. Finally, we are able to help others because our faith prompts us to love others. Today’s lesson on giving and generosity is rooted in this same thought of faith prompting us to love. Giving and generosity is grounded in a love for God and others.

1. **WE CAN GIVE BECAUSE WE HAVE FAITH THAT THE LORD WILL GIVE BACK TO US.**

* *Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. 12:32-34 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. 2 Corinthians 9:6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.* The Bible teaches us that generosity is based in faith in the Lord and His promise to take care of us. We are promised that if we give, it shall be given unto us. Clearly, this is not meant to be a promise of material wealth in this world, but it certainly is a promise of Heavenly rewards from the Lord. We can give cheerfully because we trust that what the Lord has in store for us is way better than anything that we can give to Him or to others. We can give because we trust in the Bible principle that sowing sparingly will reap sparingly, but sowing bountifully will reap bountifully. Many Christians struggle to be generous because they do not see the value in it. They don’t believe in the return on investment because they don’t see the Heavenly reward.

1. **WE CAN GIVE BECAUSE WE HAVE FAITH THAT THE LORD WILL TAKE CARE OF US.**

* *2 Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: 9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. 10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) 11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.* Our first observation dealt with out eternal reward, but this observation deals with our trust in the here and now. While we mentioned that the Lord does not promise us great wealth, He does promise to take care of us. We know that He knows what we need. He knows every hair on our head. He sees the sparrow falls. He knows that we have material needs in this life. We must trust Him for those needs. When we truly trust Him, it will incline us to be a generous people. Stingy Christians are afraid to lose their money because they are not trusting God with it. Every Christian who has lived generously (while applying Biblical stewardship principles) can validate that God has taken care of them. Our Heavenly Father is not going to give us a stone when we need bread.

1. **WE CAN GIVE BECAUSE WE HAVE FAITH THAT MONEY IS NOT THE SOURCE OF REAL JOY.**

* *1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.* Contentment is an act of faith. This is seen most visibly in the children of Israel’s journey through the wilderness. The Old Testament speaks of this generation of discontent Israelites as being an unbelieving generation (Hebrews 3:19). Contentment is the ability to be happy with what you have. It’s the willingness to trust God with what He provides for us, and it’s a willingness to trust that more gain is not going to give us what we need to sustain us and give us joy. The Bible tells us that the love of money happens for believers who have erred from the faith. They trust in their riches to fill the void that only God can fill. Ultimately, they bring many sorrows on themselves because of their pursuit for wealth. While withholding giving is not necessarily the same as pursuing after riches, it does speak to money having too great of an importance in our lives. When life is over, we will not take any of it with us.

1. **WE CAN GIVE BECAUSE WE HAVE FAITH IN GOD’S SYSTEM OF GIVING TO HIM.**

* *Proverbs 19:17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again. Matthew 25:42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. Acts 4:34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.* Some people struggle to be generous because they do not see giving as giving to God. This is a flawed viewpoint, and it lacks faith in the system of giving that God has established. God does not need any material thing from man. What could we possibly give God directly that He needs from us? He desires our faith and love toward Him. That’s more valuable than any material we could offer Him. Yet, the Lord does call us to be generous. This is done through the church. This is done through our interaction with others. When we give someone a cup of cold water in His name, it is as if we have given to Him. This takes faith to put into practice, but most people struggle to see the Lord in their giving. They only see people.

1. **WE CAN GIVE BECAUSE WE HAVE FAITH THAT GIVING IS GOOD FOR US.**

* *Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. 34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. 35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.* We should already understand that giving is good for us in the sense that God rewards it, but we also understand that giving is good for us because of what it does for our spirit. Generosity is good for our health. The Bible tells us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Most parents understand this as it relates to Christmas. It’s such a joy to see the excitement from the children as they open gifts. That joy does not have to be limited to Christmas time. The generous Christian finds great blessing of spirit. The stingy Christian has more anxiety. The stingy Christian has more stress. Money can weigh very heavy on a person’s mind. The believer ought to trust that God knows what is best for us in this matter of giving. God is not trying to punish us by instructing us to give. He knows that it is good for us. He knows that it helps us to keep the priorities in the right area and to be thoughtful of others.