



December 2018

MORE BLESSED TO GIVE

Greetings, saints!

In case you “missed the memo,” we have just released of my second full-length book entitled **The Epistle of Joy!** I am so excited about this book because I see it as a goldmine on the subject of the joy of the Lord and that it will help many people walk in their inheritance—fullness of joy. The book itself look great, but it is not the packaging of this product that I am excited about; I am excited because believe the content inside the cover holds the keys to unlocking a life of supernatural joy for those who have ears to hear. Amen!

So, with Christmas upon us, I wanted to briefly encourage you with some words from my new book that I believe will “bless” you: In Acts 20:35, the apostle Paul concluded his exhortations to these elders by saying, “*And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’*” Now according to what we have recorded in the four Gospels, we have no record of Jesus ever making this exact statement, however Jesus certainly said other things that echo it. For example, Jesus said that in the Kingdom of God, the last will be first and the first will be last (see Matthew 19:30). What this means is that the believer who is self-seeking and self-promoting simply cannot become first in God’s Kingdom. No, according to our Lord, it will be the one who lays down his life and has made himself last who will be considered first in the Kingdom of God. In other passages of Scripture, Jesus said that it is he who becomes a servant of all who will be considered the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven (see Matthew 20:26 & 23:11). In other words, the one who truly learns to empty himself of his own self-centeredness and pride—learning to serve others more than he serves himself—is the one who will be considered the greatest in the Kingdom of God. So, when Jesus explained how His Kingdom operates, He was not only showing how one will be considered first and greatest in the Kingdom of God; He was at the same time showing how one will experience all of the fruit of God’s Kingdom as well—including the joy of Heaven. Thus, we have His statement of it being more blessed to give than to receive.

Now when Jesus said that it is more blessed to give than to receive, what did He mean by “*more blessed?*” Well, the word “blessed” also carries with it the idea of being *happy*. In fact, in Acts 20:35, the Amplified Bible uses the following phrase to further describe the word “blessed”—“and brings greater joy.” So, you could translate this statement—“You will be ‘*more happy*’ and have *greater joy* when you give than when you receive.” Ah, now we are seeing the important role that being a giver plays in experiencing joy, aren’t we? My friends, this is a principle in life that works no matter who you are. You will be more fulfilled, joyful, and happy in your heart when you are a giver than you ever could be if you are only concerned about getting. Sure, receiving is fun and can bring some temporary enjoyment and pleasure, but true and lasting joy is only experienced in giving, not getting.

Now the world has tapped into this principle to a measure. That is why you see individuals and groups who enjoy contributing to charities and supporting other humanitarian projects. Yes, even the ungodly like to practice benevolence because they like the happiness it brings them. So, why do they experience these good feelings when they give? It is because they are tapping into this principle that God set in motion when He created man in the beginning—that it is more blessed to give than to receive. So then, we should ask ourselves the following question: How much more should a born-again child of God, who has Christ’s joy resident in their spirit, experience the joy of giving? Shouldn’t we be experiencing it more than the world around us? Absolutely! There is no doubt that those who are spiritually alive should reap a much greater harvest of joy than those who are spiritually dead. However, I can promise you that we will not experience joy and happiness to the degree that we could if we do not cooperate with this spiritual law of giving. Friends, do not be mistaken—an unbeliever who lives to give will be happier than a selfish Christian. Yes, even though the believer has more of the capacity to walk in the fullness of joy, if their focus is only on their own needs and desires, they will not experience any more joy and happiness than the lost around them.

Saints, if we are going to experience fullness of joy, we must learn to become givers in all aspects of life—to give of our time, our service, and yes, of our resources too. Sure, there are other spiritual laws of God's Kingdom that yield joy in our hearts (I go into these other keys in much more detail in The Epistle of Joy), but in order to experience joy, being a giver is what I consider to be the single most important key that we have to unlocking joy in our hearts.

You see, as wonderful as the promise is that we will reap what we sow, by far the greatest benefit of being a giver is not simply the natural harvest that you and I will reap from say our monetary seeds; the greatest benefit is how our cup will also overflow with joy as we sow. Yes, when a believer begins giving in this generous and faithful manner, they will experience the same net-breaking, ship-sinking, cup-overflowing provision of joy & happiness in their lives. Therefore, as wonderful as it is to reap an abundance of seed when we sow just one seed, partaking of the fruit itself makes being a giver even more delicious. Amen!

Church, there is no greater joy than being used by our gracious God to help meet someone else's need, grant their desire, or be an answer to prayer. This is not only the privilege of every believer, but it is our duty as well.

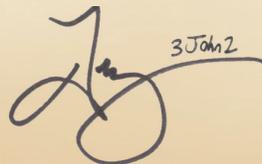
So today, begin to think of ways that you can be more of a blessing—more of a giver to your church, more of a giver to other ministries, more of a giver to your neighbor, more of a giver to the simple stranger in the marketplace, and so on. When you live your life to be a blessing to others—sowing of your time, energy, and resources—you will most definitely reap the fruit of joy in your life. It is a principle God has set up here on the earth, and it will last for all eternity. Live to give today, and reap a harvest of joy, bliss and happiness in your heart. Amen.

This was just one of the powerful truths that is contained in my new book. What I do in the Epistle of Joy is I take you on a journey through the apostle Paul's Epistle to the Philippians and describe the various keys to unlocking His joy in our lives.

So, I encourage you to order yourself a copy today, and even consider blessing someone you love with the "Gift of Joy" this Christmas. The information of how to order our new book is included on the enclosed insert, or you can simply go to our website @ www.treydickerson.com and order it via credit or debit card. We also have it available in an e-book format. Simply contact us and we can send it to you today.

We are offering The Epistle of Joy for a gift of any amount because our heart at LLM is to get God's Word into your hands at all costs and be a blessing to the body of Christ. Thanks in advance for helping us getting this gospel of joy spread throughout the world!

Victoriously,



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