

Giving Devotional



“The earth is the Lord’s,
and everything in it.
The world and all its
people belong to Him.”

Psalm 24:1 NLT

ILLUSTRATION:

In the summer of 1893, Katherine Lee Bates, professor, poet, and writer, stood at the summit of Pikes Peak in Colorado, awestruck by the beauty and grandeur she beheld of God’s creation all around her—the splendor of the majestic, purple mountains, the sight of grains waving on the plains of Kansas, and the fields of crops growing on the distant farms. Although Katherine only stood on the mountain peak for 30 minutes, the wondrous view inspired her to write a poem she entitled, “America,” as a prayer for her nation that had at the time seemed to have lost its way from its initial values in Godly principals. The poem first appeared in the *Congregational*, a weekly journal, on July 4, 1895. Within a few months, Silas G. Pratt set the poem to music composed by Samuel A. Ward. The song, we now know as “America the Beautiful,” became and is so popular in our nation, many consider it to be our country’s unofficial national anthem

APPLICATION:

We can only surmise what Katherine’s thoughts would be should she be alive today. Would she be appalled at the chaos in our world? Would she become bereft because many people seem to be lovers of themselves more than lovers of God? Would she grieve that mankind has failed to be the good and faithful stewards God intended and instructed us to be over all He has created, especially in our personal lives? All that we have, God has placed in our hands to fulfill His purpose on this earth. Whatever resources we own are on loan from the Lord to be used for good in His Kingdom. The Word declares that we are to be stewards above reproach in our relationship with Christ, in our homes, in the workplace, and in our finances without exception. To be a good steward, we must be givers of hospitality and share our blessings, for God loves a cheerful giver. We are to be humble givers in all ways, especially in tithes and various offerings as God directs. Second Corinthians 9:6 reveals that the one who sows sparingly will reap a small harvest, but the one who is generous will reap a bountiful crop. Matthew 6:33 tells us to seek first the kingdom of God and all that we need will be added unto us. We can never outgive God, for His blessings are abundant so that in all things, at all times, having all that we need, we can abound in every good work. Oh, the richness of God’s grace and His love, the taste of His goodness is ever so sweet.

PRAYER:

Father God, help us to oversee all You have created for us with care, and freely give as You have so freely given to us. Let us faithfully share Your kindness with others, so that they may experience the love of Christ within us. Amen.

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” -Winston Churchill

Written by Victoria Burks

Giving Devotional



“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

ILLUSTRATION:

During WWII Roy and Dorothy fell in love. He was an army private first class, a gentle and quiet man. Dorothy, as a sergeant in the Women’s Air Corps, not only outranked Roy, she was considerably more outspoken. When the war ended, they chose to make their home in the same city where my parents, my siblings, and I lived. They also joined the same church we attended. Dorothy had grown up in church and energetically dived right into Sunday School classes and potluck suppers. Roy, however, had never been ‘churched,’ so the weekly routines were unfamiliar. Nonetheless, he hesitantly embraced his new-found faith. Not long after the newlyweds appeared on the scene, the pastor preached on Malachi 3:10, emphasizing not only the duty for Christians to tithe, but also the benefits promised through God’s Holy Word. Roy listened skeptically.

Dorothy, of course, insisted they immediately begin tithing their modest weekly income. Roy balked. “Okay,” he finally argued, “if God promises to pour out these great blessing because we give Him ten percent of what I earn each week, how do I know it’s true? How do I know it’s just not some tall tale or the preacher’s scam? Tell you what, Dorothy, I’ll put our ten percent in a mayonnaise jar under the kitchen sink. If we don’t need it before the week’s over, it’s God’s.” Seven days later Roy was amazed at how their 90 percent income managed to buy all the groceries, gas the car and pay the bills.

APPLICATION:

And so began Roy and Dorothy’s continued, if unconventional, tithing to God’s work. Throughout the ensuing years, Roy became a beloved Sunday School teacher, a deacon, a Sunday School superintendent, and an elder. When he was graduated to Heaven a few years ago, the church sanctuary overflowed with members, as well as scores of non-members, all gathering to honor a man who had learned to trust God’s promises – all of them – more fully than any man I’ve ever known.

PRAYER:

Sovereign God, I pray You will teach me to fully and completely embrace all Your promises. I don’t understand all of them, and I’m not always sure how they apply to me, but I believe You have made each promise to Your children as a Father who loves unconditionally. Praise Your Holy Name!

It is impossible to outgive God. Not only is He bigger, stronger, more wise than we will ever become, His heart is far more generous than we can begin to understand. Truly, He gives His promises out of a heart overflowing with love for us.

Written by Robert Parrish

Weekly Devotional



“Tell the children of Israel to take an offering for Me. From every man whose heart moves him [to give willingly] you shall take My offering.”

Exodus 25:2

ILLUSTRATION: The Tabernacle is one of the central teachings of the Old Testament. It was the center of worship for the children of Israel. The deepest and richest truths of Scripture are found in the Tabernacle. Approximately 50 chapters are dedicated to it in all the Bible. God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt in fulfillment of His promise. The Israelites received of the wealth of Egypt and left there with a full supply of that wealth.

God instructed Moses to receive an offering from His people. They gave of gold, silver, and brass; blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; ram skins dyed red and badger skins; acacia wood; oil for the light; spices for anointing oil and for sweet incense; and onyx stones and other stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate. It was from these material offerings from the Israelites that the Tabernacle was constructed.

The Tabernacle in the wilderness rested upon a foundation of 100 silver sockets weighing 100 pounds each. Upon this foundation stood 48 upright boards made of acacia wood and covered with pure gold. Each board was 15 feet long, and over two feet wide. These boards had two projections on the lower end, and these projections fit into the silver foundation sockets. The upright boards were then held together by five horizontal boards of gold-covered wood. Each worshipper was instructed to give a half shekel of silver for the Tabernacle.

Each Israelite was to give his personal offering of a **APPLICATION:** half shekel of silver. According to the New Nave's Topical Bible, one who possessed five talents of gold or silver was a multimillionaire by today's standards. A silver shekel, on the other hand, was probably worth less than a dollar in today's market. A gold shekel was perhaps worth a little more than five dollars. It was easily given by rich and poor alike. There were vast numbers of Israelites who left Egypt in the Exodus. When each one did his part, there were sufficient funds to build the Tabernacle.

PRAYER:

Father, help me to be found faithful in biblical giving, and may the church be blessed and expanded through the gifts of your people. Amen.

God is not and never has been dependent upon His people to support His work. He has chosen to allow them to partner with Him through tithes and offerings to carry out the work of the kingdom of God, and He often blesses them in the process.

Written by Allan Walker

Weekly Devotional



“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

Proverbs 11:25

ILLUSTRATION:

As a little girl, I knew early in life that things were not fair. I knew other kids had better toys, nicer clothes, even more food to eat. I could see that my family and I were different. We were poor. School was my good place. At school, I could read books and write and play with other kids. When I was in first grade, our house burned to the ground. It was the middle of winter, after dark. Nothing was able to be saved. I remember moving in with my aunt who had four children of her own. There were six of us, so that made 11 people living in their three-bedroom home.

It's the little things I remember when I think back to the days that followed. I think about the animals we had, and the fact that they were safe and able to find a new home. Even though I was seven years old and didn't have many possessions anyway, I think about being at peace that I didn't lose anything precious to me personally. I remember being thankful that it all worked out the way it was supposed to.

Needless to say, the community poured out items for us all. The newspaper came and took our family picture. That may be one of the first times I realized my parents both had jobs. I was very grateful to get a house of our own, and this time it was a real house... no more cold showers in the basement!

A fluffy, soft, white pillow was my favorite thing given to just me. It was my very own pillow for my bed to sleep on. This may seem silly to some. With no shoes or socks or clothes or toys of my own, I loved that pillow. I am not sure if this is where my need and love to help others developed, or if God had put it on my heart from when I was born. I know now, as well as then, the importance of giving. So many people gave us all the things that meant so much to us...a used bed pillow, a broken-down toy, an old bike, tattered blankets, food leftovers, clothes too small and too big. It was everything one could think of, and we had never had that much abundance before.

That's the lesson. It wasn't that it was big, new, fancy or expensive, it was simply that each person gave exactly what they could give. Each person that donated an item to us, did so out of love and care. They gave knowing that we could not, at that moment give them anything in return, and it meant the world to us.

APPLICATION:

To some it is trash, but to others it is more than they have ever had. For a poor little girl who didn't know what 'expensive' was, I only saw that people sacrificed what they had to help strangers. It doesn't matter how much you give, as long as in your heart you are giving for the right reasons. Give everything for God. Help all you are able, for in the end, God will provide for you as He has done in my life so many beautiful times. Stop and ask yourself, "Did I give all I could?" "Am I giving for the right reasons?" "Am I following God's wishes and tasks?"

PRAYER: Dear God, help us all to understand Your power of giving and Your process. Lead each of us to give and to be humble. Let me be an example and share all that I have with You, Lord. Lead my heart to the way of giving, in order to be shown your almighty plan for my life. I trust in Your provision that I may have all I need in You. Amen.

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.

Written by Lisa Robbins

Weekly Devotional



So what do we do now? We had just left a job which more than provided for our needs, and we moved across the country to a remote Native American reservation. We had prayed for weeks to be sure this was what the Lord wanted. If you're taking a wife and two small daughters away from grandparents and moving where you don't know anyone, you need to be sure the Holy Spirit is leading you.

The move brought with it a 70% cut in pay. What we hadn't foreseen was that the bills remained the same, even when the income was reduced. We had always tithed, but the checkbook said if we tithed, there wouldn't be enough to pay bills. We knew to the penny what every monthly paycheck would be, and never a possibility for a bonus or overtime.

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies."
Malachi 3:10-11

It was a test of our faith. Do we believe God or the balance in the checkbook? The first check we wrote was to our new church, and we trusted God to do what only He can.

In serving Alaska Natives and Native Americans for 21 years, our first paycheck was the only "error"

that was made. An allowance I didn't qualify for was added. We used the extra to buy non-perishable foods in a distant city. If the government took all the extra back in the next pay check, we would not be able to pay our creditors, but we tithed anyway.

The extra pay was recovered over the next three paychecks, and the Lord provided my wife with a job in the small town we lived in. We were even able to feed members of the church from the abundance God provided. Never put God in a box or limit your trust by what you think God can do. He is faithful to the faithful. I share this story to encourage your faith, and to give God all the praise and glory. For more than 60 years, God has been faithful to me. You can trust Him in any and all situations.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones. Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce."
Proverbs 3:5-9

Written by Mike Morton

