

Zoe!
Part 13: A Giving Heart!
Slide Notations

“Truly better to have a giving heart than to give anything at all...!”

We’ve been looking at the life of God, as He has offered it to us... It’s what the whole Christmas visitation is all about! Jesus coming to earth, born of a woman, put under the law to redeem them that were under the law, *that we might receive adoption...* **G4.4,5** And our adoption includes freedom from sin and the invitation into the life of God, as He has it! **And His nature includes giving; sacrificial, benevolent giving!**

The Divine Nature to Give! He so loved us that He gave His Son so that whosoever would believe would not perish but have eternal life... **J3.16** W/o respect of persons... While none right, **R3.10,22-25** when we were weak, **R5.6** while yet His enemies, **R5.8** He gave! He gave “overflowingly;” love w/o end, life that is eternal and abundant! Of His fullness we have received! **J1.16**

God Gives! Life to the dead... Strength to the weak... Sight to the blind... Healing to the sick and broken... Hope to the hopeless... Wisdom to the foolish... Understanding to the confused... Rewards to the faithful...

God is a Giver! God gives out of His own full resources! He is not a Socialist/Communist! Both must do away w/Him to succeed! Not Robin Hood/take rich/give to poor! God does not try to equalize people but He does offer to make all great/thru faith! “Charge the rich; do good, lay up treasure, lend to God.” **1T6.17 Pr19.17** Rewards the faithful/blesses workers!

Giving Asides! Loving w/o discrimination and giving w/o discernment very different things! “Makes the sun to rise on the good and evil, the rain to descend on just and unjust alike...” **Mt 5.45** Basic support based on *His equanimity!* But doesn’t give equally w/o discernment; “there will be a resurrection of the dead, of the just and unjust.” **A24.15** God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him... **H11.6** “He moves over heaven and earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are toward Him!” **2Ch16.9** “Crown of righteousness laid up for those who love/live for His appearing... **2T4.8** “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name...” **H6.10**

He is God-Jireh, the Provider... sacrificial and benevolent Giver! And we are called to share in His Divine Nature!

Not consuming all we have been given... to care for the poor, fatherless and strangers... L19.10, D24.21 Willing to spend and be spent for the sake of the kingdom of God! 2C12.15 Mk10.45 J10.11

Divine Nature in us! We give because it’s part of our new nature! **E5.1,2 1J4.13** We give because He has blessed us! **Col2.9** “The fullness of God is in Him and we are in Him!” We give benevolently! **Mt6.1** We give sacrificially! **Mk12.43,44** We give because giving and loving go hand in hand, and we want it known, ours is in His!
IDENTIFICATION!

Glad-handing or a Glad Hand? Giving to get something back? The thanks of others? *Acknowledgement!* Response/WOW factor? *Pride! Lust!* Equal or greater presents? *Selfishness!* To feel good about yourself/validation/ easing of consumer-conscience? *Guilt!* **Giving at the behest of God to be His hand extended?**

Divine Nature in us! We give to all without discrimination but not indiscriminately... We give directed by God, open to anyone He directs us to! But “We don’t give what is holy to dogs or cast pearls before swine!” **Mt7.6** We don’t just give anything to anyone who asks because it’s the Christian thing!

Giving Asides! “Give to him that asks of you and don’t turn away from him who would borrow from you!” **Mt5.42 (Is that true?)** Study to show yourselves approved unto God a worker that won’t need to be ashamed!

2T2.15 In immediate context it deals w/exercising rights regarding revenge **v38** But in larger context, Sermon on the Mount, 5th of seven step-ups of relationship over religion/Pharisees! Deals w/our true goodness! **We don't have to give away our paycheck to someone who asks for it as proof of our Christianity...** Actually been used by the world to mock our faith many times!

Doesn't mean we have to pay everyone's bills... Do everyone's homework! Be someone's "goose!" If it comes down to "stuff" that will show your hand is in God's own/give!

When all is said and done, we give because it is His Divine Nature!

How are we doing?