

Romans 12:13, “Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.”



1 Timothy 6:18-19, “That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

Distributing to the needs of others does not always imply money; it may require physical assistance, a friendly shoulder to lean on or advice. It may require our time.

Titus 3:1-2, “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.”

In order to distribute to the needs of others, we must first have a heart of a giver. In fact, when you think of a person who is hospitable, you think of someone who gives cheerfully without motive.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8, “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 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:”

How do we know what or how to distribute? Imagine yourself in their shoes. What assistance would be a blessing to you?

Luke 6:30-31, “Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.”

This verse brings up a vital question: Can you give without expecting anything back?

Let’s be honest. When people ask us for money or our time, our flesh most of the time wants to scream NO. It is easy to say YES to those we love, than to those we simply like. Our selfish side does not want

to part with finances or time. We have to fight against our flesh's desire. Turn to God and ask, 'Should I help them and how can I help?' I have experienced times where God has said, 'Wait' and I believe that he wanted them to seek His face instead of mine. He wanted them to learn to depend on Him not on man. Yet I had to be willing to distribute when called upon.

Matthew 5:42, "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away."

Deuteronomy 15:7-8, "If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth."

Note the phrase 'open thine hand wide'. I believe God is saying don't be stingy, give fully.

Leviticus 25:35, "And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee."

This verse tells us that the concept of distributing to the saints is not just for those people we have relationships but also with those who are strangers or are just passing through our vicinity. This makes me think of the missionaries that come to our church and sojourn with us for a short time.

1 John 3:17, "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

If God causes my eyes to light upon the need of my Christian fellow, I will be held accountable if I turn a blind eye to their needs. Our actions show our true love for our Savior who gave us His all.

Ephesians 4:28, "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."

I find it interesting that stealing is in the same verse as working to not just meet our financial needs but to meet the needs of others.

There are those people who will always be unthankful if you give. There will also always be those people who have an evil heart who ask for a handout. How we view these people is a difficult task. Our flesh wants to dismiss their requests. But what does God say about this subject?

Luke 6:35, "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."

Can you see in this verse that God understands how difficult it is to give to the unthankful and the evil? The reward for overcoming such difficulty 'shall be great' and we shall be representing Christ in the grandest form, for He gave His precious life for the unthankful and the evil.

When an unthankful or evil person asks you to give or do something good for them, what will you do? Will you let your mind reason why you should not, or will you give knowing that Heaven is watching?