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2 Cor. 8:5 *And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.*

- **Extravagant.**

*Luke 21:1 As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. <sup>2</sup> He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. <sup>3</sup> "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. <sup>4</sup> All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."*

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## Giving

### Joining God's Team - part 12

March 24, 2024

Life vision statement:

By God's grace, to step forward,  
as God's man or woman, in my spheres of influence,  
to serve His purposes, for His glory.

God's developmental stages in His people:

Stingy

Duty

Blessing

Investment

Privilege

Want to

Extravagant

- **Stingy.**

*Proverbs 28:22 The stingy are eager to get rich and are unaware that poverty awaits them.*

*Proverbs 3:27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.*

*Proverbs 11:24 One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.*

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- **Duty.**

*Malachi 3:7 "Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty.*

*"But you ask, 'How are we to return?'"*

*Malachi 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?'"*

*Malachi 3:8 ... "In tithes and offerings."*

*Malachi 3:9 "You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me."*

*Malachi 3:10" 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 you will not have room enough for it."*

*Malachi 3:11 "I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the Lord Almighty."*

*Malachi 3:12 "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty."*

- **Blessing.**

*Proverbs 11:25 A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.*

*Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. Food measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you give, it will be given to you.*

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*Proverbs 28:27 He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.*

- **Investment.**

*Matthew 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

- **Privilege.**

*2 Corinthians 8:3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup> they urgently pleaded with us **for the privilege of sharing** in this service to the Lord's people. <sup>5</sup> And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.*

- **Want to.**

*2 Corinthians 8:1 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup> In the midst of a very severe trial, **their overflowing joy** and their extreme poverty welled up in **rich generosity.** <sup>3</sup> For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup> **they urgently pleaded with us** for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.*

*2 Cor. 8:3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability....*

*2 Cor. 8: 4 Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.*

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