

The Key To Everything

Part 2

The Purpose of This Series: The need for this series is unmistakably important. The Blessed Life is not a euphoric title given just because we have asked Christ into our lives, it is a result of Christ continuing to invade dark areas of our life that still need to be redeemed by His blood. I am confident that I have not seen any individual advance in their walk with God who had not learned to be a giver. Giving is the key of a blessed life, there is no way around it. These four messages are intended to open up your heart to receive the “full” demonstration of God in your life. When you become a giver, you never look more like Jesus!

The Purpose of This Message: This message is probably one of the most important messages you could hear. It is foundational and fundamental to living an abundant life. It is without question that the person who does not gain an understanding of this message today, they will never exceed in their Christian walk...it's that important. If you have been in church your whole life or recently come to know the Lord, you will gain insights to a life better lived in this message. Open your heart and your ears as to what the Lord has to say so you can live a blessed life too!

Intro: In 1990, Carol and I planted a church just South of Dallas. Those who came, gave their heart and life to Christ in a wonderful way. The old life they lived was broken and shattered. There was a new revelation in their heart of the living Christ! But I had a concern with some of those who had come to Christ, because they had come out of and resented anything to do with traditional churches, their search for God seemed like they would struggle with a message concerning giving.

As I struggled to teach on this matter, there were some who gave, to a degree, but still clearly on their own terms. It seemed like everyone preferred that you were never too direct in talking about money in the church. For me to teach boldly on it would seem too legalistic or “too churchy” and seemed to stray from the message of grace.

I knew within my own heart that I was not going to be legalistic or teach without love, but I just didn't want to be misinterpreted as a traditionally dead with such an important message. Our church was small and everyone in it was struggling in every way, especially financially. At that time it was considered the second most poverty community in North Texas.

Growing More Selfish

The growing problem with America at that time, and still is, is that we've lost the moral compass that made this nation great and what made people great. There was a deeper sense of obligation that we felt toward our “neighbor” and nations around the world. We've become fatally attracted to what can only bring death and destruction.

(Quote) Listen to this quote from Jim Morrison, a Presidential advisor of the Clinton administration. "I have always been attracted to those ideas that were about revolt against authority . . . I am interested in anything about revolt, disorder, chaos—especially activity that seems to have no meaning. It seems to me to be the road to freedom." (The Things That Matter Most, Cal Thomas, Harper Collins/Zondervan, 1993, page 6.)

No wonder there is confusion and frustration at every turn. But just as God desired with all His heart to have a personal relationship with His chosen people, Israel, there is no doubt in my mind that He doesn't want the power of Jesus' redeeming blood to go to waste. He is passionate toward us and desires true "freedom" in our lives.

As I prayed about the messages on giving for that young church, God started stirring my heart helping me review my own life when it came to giving. He quickly showed me that the reason for many of the blessings in my life were in direct proportion to obedience in giving. As a matter of fact, the means of differentiating the blessings in my life and that of other believer's was in response to two things, serving and giving. In quick review, our financial blessing came from the many acts of obedience in giving. Carol and I are testimonies of the goodness of God and having blessed lives. (Let me say at this point, it was not without trials, much to the lack of maturity and wisdom.)

Upon that review it became apparent to me that I could not allow these people to miss the opportunity of giving. You've heard the adage, "If God said it, I believe it, and that settles it!" That's a good faith-building maxim, but there are times when God's Word says it and that settles it regardless of your belief system!

India

Just three weeks ago, while I was sitting in a small church in India, with over a hundred pastors there, the Lord spoke to my heart just like He did back in 1990, "There needs to be teaching on giving." Rick Beard, another pastor who went with us was next to me. I leaned over and asked if he had a message on giving and he said yes. I asked if he would take the next teaching hour and teach them the message of giving. He did an excellent job. When we had finished, Pastor Joseph, who is the director and oversight of these pastors and the orphanage of 250+ children, came up to me and said, "Our pastors had never heard a teaching on giving. This is the first time they have heard that they are to give, it's a totally new idea for them."

By the way, Brett McGraw has learned to give.

Sometimes God speaks to my heart and says, "You need to give." Nothing more than that, just give. It is an act of obedience that is like that movie, pay-it-forward. When God doesn't designate my giving, He is typically designating my getting! But then there are those times when He is very specific about where I give and how I give.



What I've learned is this,

“Learn to obey the written word of God and you will learn to live the revelation of God”



Question: How many of you have ever lost your keys? How would you feel if someone were trying to steal your keys? They are! Jesus says that Satan has come to rob you, to steal from you the keys of the Kingdom. There are keys in the Bible, keys to abundant life and Satan is trying to hide them or steal them from you.

Too often things have been said in a simplistic way about giving and God's blessing; saying true things about God's "**hand**" of **abundance** but too few things about God's "**heart**" of **giving**. God is a giver! If you don't understand the **heart of God** then all you will look for is the **hand of God**.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

In this most powerful and certainly well-known verses in the Bible, we are told that God is a giver! Because He is the greatest giver, He will give us the grace we need when we are called upon to give.

The Key to Everything is learning to release yourself from small, simplistic understandings that actually limit you in exchange for things that may be simple but are powerful in releasing you to a blessed life. All the elements of what most hinders life and what most liberates it is found in the principles of giving. Giving is the key to everything.

To give is to exercise the Key to Everything. It is not an abstract simplistic type of giving with a formula or magic action to create a heavenly jack pot. It is learning to focus more on a growing **heart attitude** in giving which gives to the **right thing** at the **right time** in the **right way** and for the **right reason!**

The main focus of the Bible is Jesus, He is the one true center point. He is the subject or the noun of the Bible. What we have learned in the last few weeks is that the power found in the Bible is found in the "blood" of Jesus. But the verb or the action of the Bible is "giving."

Let me explain:

- The reason you are listening to a sermon is because God *gave* His Son.
- The reason that you are here today is because Jesus *gave* His life for us.
- The reason that you are here today is because you *gave* your life to God.
- The reason that you continue to come to Church is because you continue to give your life to God.

Giving affects everything in your life, but more specifically it affects two things in your life, it affects **relationships and **resources**.**

Giving is the key to everything. This message is about learning how to give something that will eventually lead you in giving everything. We have been taught that, to give anything is to be left with less, and to give everything is to be left with nothing. But that is the residue left from man's separation from God. **Without a regenerated soul, all you have is all you've got. But not so in the believer's life. He knows that little can be great and nothing is everything!**

Do you know why many people don't give of their finances? Because they don't really have a Biblical revelation of who God is. If you see God all powerful and all loving you won't hold back in your giving. If you see God as your provider rather than your job or your skills, you give of your finances.

Multi-millionaire- Robert Morris tells a story of a man that he knows who is a multi-millionaire. He has made millions of dollars and he has saved millions of dollars because he

is a good steward of his money. But more than that, what he has given away for more exceeds what he has saved. His HRA, Heavenly Retirement Account, far exceeds his earthly IRA, his Individual Retirement Account.

This man was sharing a story with Pastor Robert. He had given his daughter a \$5 dollar bill and she could not express how happy she was to receive it. She kept saying, "Oh Daddy, thank you, thank you, thank you." And as he stood there he thought, "My daughter has no idea how much her Daddy has. If I were to open up my books to her and let her see what I have, her little mind could not conceive what all the zeros meant. She has no idea the ability I have to bless her and she really has no idea the desire I have to bless her. She has no idea that I already have funds set aside for her and how I have already prepared for her future." And in a moments thought, God interrupts him and says, "Neither do you!"

God spoke to his heart and said, "Son, you have no idea the desire I have to bless you. If I opened up my books to you, your little mind could not comprehend how much I have. And, you don't even know how much I desire to bless you."

See, the reason we don't give is because we don't really see God or have a real encounter with Him. Do you know why you "gave" your heart to God? Because you had an encounter with Him. You saw God and how mighty, loving, powerful, holy He was, but you also saw how sinful you were. Your encounter with God caused you to turn and ask for His giving to you what you didn't deserve and what you could not achieve on your own, and He took you as you "gave" and continue to "give" your life to Him. Here is something that I have learned to be very true:

Every time there is an encounter with God there is an action that causes us to give or be a recipient of His giving to us!

There is a difference from being **saved** and having an **abundant life**. **Our walk with God is not a one time encounter with God but it is multiple encounters with God. The abundant life is having daily encounters with God.** That is the purpose of our "Saturation" Journals, so we can have a daily encounter with God and write that encounter down so that we can remember it and build upon it. You and I have an opportunity everyday to encounter God.

When your giving stops, something is in the way of your encounter with God. Every time we gather together in worship as believers it is intended to be a time to encounter God. That's why it's easier to get to work on time than it is to get to church on time. Satan knows that if you have an encounter with God it will mess his plans up that he has for you. That's the reason there are arguments and distractions all the way to church. To have an encounter with God is a dangerous thing in the domain of Satan. Satan wants you to be distracted and miss your encounter with God, especially in Church.

Six Ways People Give

2. **Give to**— Because of the lack of understanding about giving, most people who begin to give, give to something like they would give to a charity. They give, but it's to the church or to a club. It's something nice and generous and you should do that sort of thing.
3. **Give in**- There are many who have a heart of giving. They cannot resist being asked to help someone else for whatever reason. But others don't give unless they are really

challenged or the vision is so big they can't resist. For whatever reason, they give in. Most of the time they don't understand the principles of giving and they basically have to be coached into a reason to give.

4. **Give up**- There are times when people give up in their giving. That is not because their heart is open to give, but they know that there is a price to pay if they don't give! The wife is a giver or the husband and it looks like a big waste to you. You don't understand giving in a Biblical manner. You may see as a responsibility since you attend church here or you liked the person who spoke, but it is not something you have made a part of your life. When you decide to give, you give up in your giving, it is not a free will decision.
5. **Give over**- To give over is to place your life and finances into the hands of God, knowing that all His principles are accurate and true. To give over is to actually trust in God's Word and not yielding, giving up, again and again, but it becomes a final way of life, not a moment by moment decision that leaves you weary and exhausted but one that empowers you.
6. Give away- This is when you understand the Law of reciprocity, you give according to the principles of God's Word. We learn not only to give what is required but also what is not required. We discover God promises in giving and His power of giving.

Giving Is A Spiritual Revelation

Giving is a growing process for most people. If it took us nine months just to show up in this world, the Word of God needs time to incubate in our own Spirits to help us understand God's Spiritual truths in this area. Like I had already mentioned before, **Without a regenerated soul, all you have is all you've got. But not so in the believer's life. He knows that little can be great and nothing is everything!**

The reason why many people don't give of their finances is because they don't really have a Biblical revelation of who God is, they haven't had a fresh encounter with Him. If you see God all powerful and all loving, you won't hold back in your giving. If you see God as your provider rather than your job or your skills being your provision, you will attain an attitude of giving.

1. FORGIVE

Let me say before we get down the road too far, there is a giving that I must make a point about that is the foundation to all other giving: **FORGIVE!**

Forgive, an amazing word, it is the releasing of grudges, anger, pain, or internalized stress over real or perceived injustices. Forgiveness is giving release of past hurts and undeserved wrongs. And if you know Jesus Christ in your life today you have had that privilege only because of "forgiveness." It is something that has paved the way to our own future and victory in this life through the work of Jesus Christ!

God's own action toward us to provide acceptance and provision was displayed on a cross through Jesus Christ. Grace is giving and all giving is in response to that grace. This is the highest principle of all, **love gives!** Of all the attributes of God's person and personality, the foremost of all is His LOVE!

God's love mandates giving and forgiving because it is His nature to do so and it is His love that mandates that His family continues in the same attributes.

The Kingdom Of God (Matthew 18:23-35)

Jesus teaches us a Kingdom parable in Matthew 18:23-35, as He responds to Peter's question concerning forgiveness, "How many times do I forgive?" Jesus is not saying, "Hey guys, here's a great churchy idea." What Jesus tells us in this passage is a key concept of the kingdom of God. The purpose of the parable is to help us understand something that is fundamental to successful living, but it is not without a sobering warning and in it we can learn these three things:

1. How God rules,
2. How we were created to function
3. How we can align with His intended order and live a fulfilled life

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt."

Matthew 18:23-25

This slave owed the king 10,000 talents. Now if a talent was worth a dollar, that would be a lot of money, but a talent was equal to 15 years wages! The average annual income for this neighbourhood is \$25,000, one talent would be worth \$375,000. The slave owed 10,000 times that amount: \$3,750,000,000 - 3 billion, 750 million dollars! This fellow was a slave, and therefore had little personal earnings, if he was free and went to work to pay off the debt, giving all his income to the king and living off nothing, it would take him 150,000 years! Jesus used such a high amount to explain what deep trouble we are in with God. Just as the slave could never pay back what he owed, we could never pay back what we owe to God.

"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded."

Matthew 18:26-28

"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened."

Matthew 18:29-31

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed."

Matthew 18:32-34

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Matthew 18:35

If we are going to give the **right things** in the **right way** at the **right time** and for the **right reasons**, then we need to learn from Jesus' teaching on **the key to everything!**

The lesson we draw from this parable reveals the need for forgiving others, it is **giving up selfish interest** and **giving over and eventually giving away** to God's eternal wisdom.

See, in this still is an understanding for the "right reason" to give. The Key to Everything is not a magical exercise, a list of phrases that payes, instead it's an attitude of the HEART that only comes through understanding God's heart and principles.

As we look at this parable, the one central moment where the whole story pivots: It is the confrontation between the forgiving master and the unforgiving servant.

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. **Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?"**

Matthew 18:32-33

This parable doesn't pull any punches, it is pointed and clear:

Forgetting grace causes you to live a different life than the one you were given.

Forgetting that we were forgiven by God's great grace through the cross of Jesus Christ is disastrous. This parable is undoubtedly the perfect picture to view our own lives through. It is the perfect picture of a master's release of an indebted servant. This same pivot point is the base from which the Key to Everything comes from. Jesus is our reference point about giving, whether mercy or money, forgiveness or finance, we must first see, receive and understand His grace as the key foundation of our lives and learn to grow in the grace of giving.

This whole parable was in response to Peter's "gracious" offer of forgiving people seven times, (Matt. 18:21). This might sound very shallow, but he was actually being very kind, the schools of thought that existed during that time proposed that even God didn't forgive anyone more than three times! This concept was deducted from the prophet Amos when God repeatedly announced upon the nation of Israel, "for three transgressions..." (Amos 1,2)

Peter asks, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" (Matt. 18:21), he is actually being very generous. But Jesus says, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times," (Matt. 18:22). Jesus was being outlandish in His statement, He was off the board to ask that much of them. He was basically saying, "Never stop forgiving!"

Africa- Two years ago I was privileged to go to Uganda, Africa and work with pastors who had very little training at all. We did a question and answer time and one of the pastors stood up and said, "The Bible says that we are to forgive, but there is a man in our village that I don't like and I am not going to forgive him, so what do I do?" The question was confusing, are you asking how to forgive the person or are you making a statement that you choose not to forgive? After some investigation, the man was making it clear that he didn't like this idea of forgiving and that he had no plans to, but he was wondering what he could do rather than forgiving this individual. Of course the lack of biblical understanding contributed to his problem. It took a while to teach him that unforgiveness is not optional. He didn't have a

correct view of grace and the work of the cross.

"It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

I Corinthians 13:5

Love doesn't keep score! To keep forgiveness as the foundation of operation Jesus told a simple yet profound story of God's love extended to each of us through the work on the cross. It illustrated these truths:

- We are all God's created and accountable servants.
- Our destiny in life is a complete loss if our debt is not redeemed.
- The debt of our sin is far greater than we can repay.
- As the servant, we are in debt and responsible for the debt.
- A cry for mercy will always find the compassionate ear of God.
- Our total debt is cancelled through Christ's death in our place.
- Having been forgiven, we are expected to live in the same way toward others.

Where Are You?

The man in the story had a problem, the problem was debt, it was real and it was unpayable.

- HE WAS HELPLESS, "Be patient with me, give me more time."
- HE WAS HOPELESS. "The master had commanded all that he had to be sold, his wife and children."

You understand that when we came to God, we were helpless and hopeless. A revelation of God exposes our condition as an inferior man dealing with a superior God. The truth is, when you see a Holy God you will see your own sinfulness. If you are living a life of sin, you are not encountering God. Because when you see God, you recognize your sin and you are convicted of sin in your life. A reason why people stay away from church or quit their quiet time is because they they'll see God and if they see God it will convict them of their sin.

The Last Straw- A few years back I had an individual who began acting awkward toward me so I asked, "Is there something wrong?" The individual replied, "No, everything is fine." Again there was an uncomfortable nudge about this particular person, I again asked the same question and got the same answer. This happened three times, each time a confident acknowledgement that everything was fine. One day after church I past that individual when I over heard them say, "That's the last straw!" And that was the last day they came to our church.

I attempted communicating with them at least three more time with no response. Here is what I've learned, "If you a near your last straw, you have too many straws!" If you hold on to straws for too long, you will eventually find more straws to pick up. If you have any straws, that is too many! I've also learned that if you carry your straws too long you will have a tendency to share them with others. It's hard to share what you don't have!

I must confess, I am a FB friend. It is the social highway for me. I love the quick look

into everybody's life and then bounce back to reality. On more than one occasion I have put on my FB status on Mondays, "Monday, Monday, dah dah dah dahdahdah..." That's all I wrote, just those two words and the dah-dah's from the Mama and the Papa's song. No music, no more words, but on each occasion I had people write back and say, "Great, now I can't get that song out of my head!" And it's true, it just takes that much to get a song in your head.

The same is true with one piece of straw, it only takes one, and you can't get it out of your head. You can contaminate others with one piece of straw, now it's ringing in their brain! "I'm mad, I'm mad, dah dah, dah, dah-dah-dah!" Has anyone ever given you a piece of their straw? Was it their last one? Was it one of many? Don't pick it up, you won't get it out of your head!

Carpet Cleaner- There was a guy who was a carpet cleaner and he hired a new guy. He dropped off the new guy at the house he was supposed to clean then he went over to another house to check on another employee. When he came back, the guy was putting up his equipment. He was thinking, "Wow, I can't believe that this guy is already done, he must really be fast to clean this house in that amount of time." So he decided to go inside and inspect his work. He was walking through the house and he came to a huge spot in the carpet.

He called the new employee over and positioned himself where his toes were on one side of the spot and this employee's toes were on the other side of the spot. He said that he took the kids head and tilted it downward where he couldn't do anything but look down and said, "What's that?" Pointing to the spot on the carpet. He responded, "That's dirt."

The boss man said, "Good, we can work together." He said, "You know, I have hired some people before and they can't see that." And he said, "If you can't see dirt, I can't work with you. But if you can see that, we can work together." And he said, "Now go get your equipment out of the truck and get this out, because they pay us to get this out!" So the young guy goes and gets the equipment while the boss sits in his own vehicle.

As soon as he sits down in his truck, it was like the Holy Spirit took his head and pushed it down so he could see his heart and reminded him of how he had responded wrongfully in a situation. And the Holy Spirit said, "Son, what's that?" He said, "Oh, God, that's sin!" And the Lord said to Him, "Good, we can work together!" He continued to say to him, "You know, I have some children that can't see that and I can't work with them."

See we have got to understand that when Jesus died for our sins, He paid to get that out. And if you can see it, He can redeem it by His blood.

"Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world."

Ephesians 2:12

Like this servant who had been forgiven, we forget the grace that has been extended to us.

"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded."

Matthew 18:26-28

Do you see him going out of his way to get that one? Do you see him thinking what little was owed to him was all that he could think about. Do you see him consumed with the 100 denarii, (\$40)? Do you see him grab his throat? Do you see his eyes bulging, his veins popping across his forehead and his scream, "Give me my money!"

After reading this story you want to get ahold of that guy and excuse yourself with him behind the barn. There's no doubt that everything carnal in us wants to become the judge and jury.

Maybe we haven't grabbed someone around the throat or demand them to repay for some debt of the past, but the same is true of the spirit of unforgiveness:

- I criticize my neighbor.
- I'm judgmental and am condemning toward a lost sinner.
- I enjoy watching certain people suffer.
- I feel justified to speak unkindly toward certain people.
- I reject someone who doesn't meet my standard in education, financial status, career development, leadership qualities, personal grooming and social abilities.
- I attack fellow Christians for practices or positions different than mine.
- I often mock other people different than me using words like, "stupid, idiot," or try and spiritualize it in discerning terms, "bad spirit, not of God, in the flesh."

Here is the bottom line, **EVERY CLASH IN HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IS DUE TO AN UNWILLINGNESS TO GIVE UNDERSTANDING OR TO FORGIVE FAILURE.**

See, our sins seem so small in comparison to others. Our guilt is not as costly as those who fail us or do not get our approval. We are so slow to measure our own violations against God. It is so easy to forget the great grace of God, that looked beyond our own faults and violations, to see the impossible feat of satisfying our debt and forgiving us, paying it in full.

This is what the kingdom of God is like. This is the key principle that we must camp on to be "kingdom people" is to be giving, primarily, "forgiving." Jesus came to bring kingdom principles to us so that we could live a powerful life here on this earth. We, the forgiven are called to live forgiving, to the same degree that we have been forgiven. This begins the foundation to the keys to everything!

My Back Story

I've share this story far too many times, but here it goes one more time, illustrating a part I've not talked much about. When I was a youth pastor I herniated a disk in my back. I had spent three years in pain and struggling with what to do. My options were to take shots in my back, fuse the disk together or have surgery to cut the vertebrae in a way the the bulged "whatever" could rest without having all the pressure.

What I don't spend must time on is that there was a man who had given our church quite a bit of conflict. He was constantly running down the pastor and the church. He had a wonderful family but his presence became abrasive to me.

During this time he faced one of the greatest financial crisis in his life. He was a builder and everything took a hit. He was losing everything and he was going down quick. In a small part of my heart I took gratification in that. I felt it justified that he felt some of the pain for once. And my heart was only an expression of something deeper that had never got tended to. I come to notice that I had a "little" satisfaction in watching "successful" people failing. There was something perverted about me, it pleased me to watch them fall.

Oh, don't get me wrong, I didn't applaud it out loud or bring it up in conversation, but secretly, down in my heart, I was pleased knowing someone who had stepped out to take a risk in life had setbacks and even failure. The best picture of my heart is the one I have of a five gallon bucket in Louisiana full of crabs. When one had the mind to climb out, the others would pull them back in, there was no need for a lid, the crabs keeps everyone in the bucket themselves.

To fast forward the story, God started dealing with me about selling my truck and giving the money away...to that man. It was one of the hardest things I had ever done, but through the process of obedience to God, my back was healed. I don't walk around in the pain I once had.

This was not only a story of giving, but of forgiving. When I began to exercise proper stewardship over my heart's attitude things started changing in my life. I discovered that my giving, which was blended with forgiving in this case, determined the degree of release of God's work and power in my own life and body. I could not give with unforgiveness. I've seen this over and over in my life and in my children's life. You want to talk about the favor of God on your life? Walk in forgiveness and giving, it is so powerful!

We can rationalize, theologize, debate and argue, but it is always the same,

Giving in any part of my life integrates with other parts of my life.

We have been taught that when we give something that means we have less than we had before we gave. To Biblically give means that everything is God's in the first place, when we came to Him we actually have nothing left. But, through Christ's sacrificial gift, we now have access to all things. God's principle is for us to give away what we need and then supernaturally we will experience the provision of whatever we need to do His will.

Conclusion:

Corrie ten Boom- Years after her concentration camp experiences in Nazi Germany, Corrie ten Boom met face to face one of the most cruel and heartless German guards that she had ever contacted. He had humiliated and degraded her and her sister. He had jeered and taunted, leering at them as they stood in the delousing shower.

Now he stood before her with hand outstretched and said, "Will you forgive me?" She writes: "I stood there with coldness clutching at my heart, but I know that the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart. I prayed, Jesus, help me!

"Woodenly, mechanically I thrust my hand into the one stretched out to me and I experienced an incredible thing. The current started in my shoulder, raced down into my arms and sprang into our clutched hands.

"Then this warm reconciliation seemed to flood my whole being, bringing tears to my eyes. 'I

forgive you, brother,' I cried with my whole heart. For a long moment we grasped each other's hands, the former guard, the former prisoner. I have never known the love of God so intensely as I did in that moment!"

To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover the prisoner was you. Unforgiveness restricts your ability of growing the right **heart attitude** in giving. It debilitates how you should give, to the **right thing** at the **right time** in the **right way** and for the **right reason**!

We Jesus sends out the twelve, he says to them,

"As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."
Matthew 10:7-8

He says the same to us, "freely you have received forgiveness, freely give it." He also says that if we do not forgive freely, our own forgiveness will be removed from us. The forgiveness that we have received enables us to forgive, our own forgiveness compels us to forgive.

The load of bitterness is heavy. It will put a strain on your heart and you will break beneath the weight. The wisest choice – the only choice for us today– is for us to drop the load of anger, bitterness and unforgiveness and make a choice to listen to the Holy Spirit to give you a right heart attitude so you can give the right thing at the right time, in the right way for the right reason!

What you have freely received, freely give!