

According to Jesus “When” You Give

Giving is about our relationships with others. Praying is about our relationship with God. And fasting is about our relationship with ourselves.

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. Matthew 6:1

2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. Matthew 6:2

21 “I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. 22 Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. 23 Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. 24 But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! Amos 5:21-24

If we are too connected to our possessions then we cannot be connected enough to Him.

Three typical motivations for giving

We give to please God. We give to please others. We give out of guilt.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. Matthew 23:23

3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Matthew 6:3-4a

The resurrection of Jesus ushered in the era of Grace and frees us to give out of love for him and not obligation to the Law.

Two Biblical guidelines for giving.

Giving is encouraged not demanded.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Giving is intentional.

2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, 1 Corinthians 16:2

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:4b

“If we remember, God will forget; but if we forget, God will remember.”