



# THE LORD'S FLOCK

# GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### God's Plan Of Giving

#### (Why Borrow When You Can Ask, Part 2)

Sis. Techie Rodriguez, Elder-Founder

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A Christian giver knows that he cannot outperform God's generosity (Luke 6:38) and that giving is a character of a blessed life (Acts 20:35). God, who owns riches in this world, provides all his children with abundant blessings (Hag 2:8) Let us stop borrowing, and simply ask God who has been calling us to be extravagant givers like Himself. Thus, the mark of a true Christian is to be an extravagant giver and an imitator of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave His life for us, so that we can live fully (Jn 3:16).

#### Characteristics of GIVERS

- 1. Thoughtfulness.** Givers often make their presence felt in different ways.
  - Givers are always sending gifts or calling to greet those who are celebrating special occasions, or offering well-wishes and prayers to those having difficult moments. Givers imitate God who looks into the needs of His children and provides more than what is needed.
- 2. Considerateness.** Givers understand someone's status in life and seize occasions to help.
  - They give words of encouragement and give something to alleviate a person's difficulty.
- 3. Compassion.** Givers have a special heart for the poor.
  - They always find opportunities to help financially distressed brothers and sisters; they support small scale vendors such as the street sellers.
- 4. Sensitivity.** Givers sense the needs of others even when they are not told.
  - They look out for non-verbal signs of the needs of others. They lean on the fact that someone's lack of different things has put them on difficult situations.
- 5. Generosity.** Givers spend more than what is required and they do it happily.

- They have open palms and are always excited to give or share their time and talents without expectations.

#### Characteristics of TAKERS

1. They are self-centered and inconsiderate.
2. They seek the approval of men.
3. They lack empathy to the trials of others and will turn a blind eye on opportunities to share blessings.

#### 5 Truths of Giving

- 1. Giving is not an action but an attitude.** Giving starts in the heart, and drives action (2Cor 8:1-7 2Cor 9:7).
- 2. Jesus asks for more than money.** God wants first and foremost the whole life of the Christian and not only your finances (Mk 8:34-37; Mt 19:21).
- 3. Giving is at the heart of the Christian lifestyle.** The best type of giving is to give freely just as we received freely the graces from God (Mt 5:40-42).
- 4. The Kingdom's principles are upside down.** The modern world measures blessings by how much we receive, but not so in God's Kingdom. It is more blessed to give, to help the weak (Acts 20:32-35).
- 5. Extravagant giving comes from the heart.** It takes great love and a grateful heart to offer extraordinarily (Mark 14:3-9).

#### Conclusion:

A Christian giver supports his community and his church as an acknowledgement to God of the graces and blessings received (Deut. 8:18; Prov. 10:22).

As Christians, let us continue to pour out life-giving love to make God's loving presence felt to the world.

**Reflection:** Do you consider yourself a giver or a taker? Are you sharing your time, talent and resources?

**Transcriber/Writer:** Remegio Sagarino

**Editor:** Sis Jo Advincula

**Approved by:** Sis Vera

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