

# God's Love Gives

From: Know and Believe:  
A Lifetime Journey toward Rediscovering God's Love for You  
Taken from Chapter 34: Love in Action  
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There was a time in our life when we had very little money. We fed our family, paid our bills, gave in the offering plate, and that was about all we could do. Many people during that time were very kind and generous with us, and it blessed our hearts. Way back then we longed for a day when *we* could be on the giving side of the equation. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than receive," and who can disagree with that? Now that we have something to share, it is a total blessing to give to this one and that, to minister to our children, grandchildren, and friends. Giving is such a cheerful endeavor.

God loves giving to His children. So many passages encourage us to ask and receive. God wants to bring us joy by answering our prayers even though Paul wrote that He gave us "all things pertaining to life and godliness." Some might say that since we have been given all, we need not ask for more— simply enjoy what He has given. Yet Paul also wrote that He is "able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think," and, "He rewards those who seek Him."

As mentioned earlier, it is more common to hear a sermon about what God expects of us than to be reminded of all He's given and will give. In fact, many people go to church on Sunday to discover more about what God expects of them rather than going to hear of what He wants to give them. Focusing on what God does for us is sometimes seen as a self-centered Christianity, but it's actually quite the opposite. It is a Jesus-centered perspective. It *does* matter what we do in this life, but what we do is based upon what He has already done.

We need to put the cart behind the horse and jump inside. Jesus is powering this wagon. We are going along for the ride. It is because He loved us and died for us that we live. It is because He

was wounded that we are healed. It was because He told us to speak to mountains that they move. It is because

He brought us to Himself that we fellowship with Him. We give because He gave. He gave and He gives because He loves.