



THE GIFT OF LOVE

2 Corinthians 9:6-9 (NIV)

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ 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. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

Acts 20:35 NIV
'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
- Jesus

"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

When we give with the right heart, we RECEIVE.

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

1 John 11, 16-18 (NIV)

¹¹ For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Love is generously CHOOSING the good of another.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

1 John 4:16b
God is love. Whoever
lives in love lives in
God, and God in
them.

**Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
with compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
~ Teresa of Avila**

NOTES:

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13



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Because of your faithful giving this past year...these are some of the investments we are celebrating:

:: We deployed over \$20,000 for emergency relief in disaster situations both in our own country and around the world.

:: We were able to support 4 **Global Partners** missionary families in their work in equipping national leaders to plant churches, disciple others, and preach the Gospel.

:: With \$5,000 we were able to equip social workers and educators in Sierra Leone with vital training materials and education sessions on how to advocate for children and better educate children on their rights against abuse and exploitation.

:: We utilized \$15,000 and came alongside many families locally facing crisis situations and helped them not only recover, but also build a stronger foundation of support.

:: We invested over \$30,000 in strengthening and expanding our school partnerships. Classroom improvements, teacher support, encouraging staff, improving family impact events, and so many other vital initiatives happened because of your generosity.

:: We financially supported pro-life work through our partnerships with **Women's Choice Center** and **Quad City Pregnancy Resources** and also with the utilization of our space at the Esperanza Center.

:: Our commitment to support families who are struggling and children who need extra support is evidenced through our financial partnership with **Safe Families of the Quad Cities**, **Youth Hope**, and **Riverbend Food Bank**.

:: Our financial support of the work at the Esperanza Center enables the center to be utilized by more than 20 community partners throughout the year and serve as the hub for **the Esperanza Childcare Center** and the **Esperanza Legal Assistance Center**, as well as the home for our Vida Nueva campus.

:: **Meals from the Heartland** - We are excited to be partnering with Meals from the Heartland for a huge meal packing effort at the Esperanza Center on December 1st. We will be packing 50,000 meals to be sent to **Convoy of Hope**, which will be distributed to areas affected by crisis, disaster, or conflict. This is a wonderful serving opportunity for any and all of us! Sign up as a family, small group, team or sign up as an individual and meet great people in the process. Go to heritageqc.com/sent to reserve your spots!

Thank you for your generosity and partnership in 2018!

Now What? [For Further Reflection]:

:: How have you been impacted by our Go.Be.Love. journey?

:: What is one way God positioned you to Go.Be.Love this past week?

:: When Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive", what did he mean?

:: How have you personally experienced this statement of Jesus to be true?

:: What are practical ways that we can calibrate our heart to be "a cheerful giver"?

:: Having been invited to participate in the Go.Be.Love. commitment journey, how are you prayerfully engaging with that process?

:: How does our understanding of love intersect with our ability to give love?

:: As you have prayed Wesley's Covenant Prayer how have you seen Holy Spirit work in your heart? You are invited to continue to pray this prayer again this week and record how God answers this prayer in your life.

Identify someone you trust and ask them to pray for you and hold you accountable to do this.

Lord, hear our prayers...
"I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me
with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by you or laid
aside for you,
Exalted for you or brought low by
you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have
nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to
your pleasure and disposal."
-Wesley's Covenant Prayer

How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

**Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness.
I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I recognize
you as my Savior; and I offer all that I am to you as my LORD.
Help me to faithfully follow you all the days of my life.
In Your name, Amen.**

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].
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