

## The Joy of Giving (Part 2)

By Pedro Gelabert

*The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:*

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A word to the wise: I'm not preaching a gospel of prosperity here: "give to God to get rich" or something like that. But, I want you to experience true material *and* spiritual blessings that come as a result of building intimacy with God, when you walk by faith and not by sight.

Examine **Matthew 7:8-11**: "8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!"

We are plainly evil. Jesus says so right here! Our hearts are deceitful, above all things (Jeremiah 17:9)! But, we know how to give to those we care for. We give them the best! How much more will God want to give you the best!!! But, you need to trust Him when He wants to give you bread.

Sometimes you may want a stone. Something you think you need or you lust for, but it will not help you spiritually. God will make sure that you always get the bread! However, it is up to us to ask, seek, and knock. The catch here is *what* we're looking to find, receive, and have. God is faithful. He'll give you bread, even if you're asking or looking for stones.

And, if you ask with wrong motives, remember **James 1:5-8**: "5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does."

Also consider **James 4:2-3**: "2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

God gives us a clear goal for all our seeking, asking, and knocking efforts. He says in **Matthew 6:33**: "**But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**"

Jesus came with an attitude of *giving*, not *getting*, even unto death (**Philippians 2**). He calls us to give whatever we have, trusting Him to provide for us.

"He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little."  
(**Exodus 16:17, 18; 2 Corinthians 8:15**)

Whose measuring stick are you living up to? What is it that you seek to find?

(Continued on next page)

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**“Let your Light so shine...”      Matthew 5:16**

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(Continued from front page)  
**The Joy of Giving (Part 2)**

What joyful giving is not:

**Haggai 1:5-9:** - *“5 Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. 6 You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.” 7 This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. 8 Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the LORD. 9 “You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the LORD Almighty. “Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house.”*

**Malachi 3:13-18:** - *“13 You have said harsh things against me,” says the LORD. “Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against you?’ 14 “You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty? 15 But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape.” 16 Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored His name. 17 “They will be mine,” says the LORD Almighty, “in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. 18 And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.”*

Learn from these men who had the wrong idea of what giving was about. God cannot be fooled by your double minded ways. Seek to serve the Lord only and give everything up for the Kingdom! May God richly bless you!

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**“The Lord added to their number...”      Acts 2:47      Baptisms**

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DATE	NAME	TOWN
07/19/03 .....	Tina Wygal .....	New York, N.Y.
08/24/03 .....	Eddie Cartagena .....	Manorville

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**“They first gave themselves to the Lord...”      2 Corinthians 8:5**

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Weekly Budget: \$ 6,000

DATE	ATTENDANCE	CONTRIBUTION
08/03/03	294	\$ 4,772
08/10/03	310	\$ 8,537
08/17/03	297	\$ 5,438
08/24/03	328	\$ 6,187
08/31/03	314	\$ 7,014

## Forgiveness

By Jacqueline Green

Forgiveness is an essential part of our Christian walk. Matthew 6:14-15 reads, *“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”* Our Father’s forgiveness is essential; without the forgiveness that God gives us, we cannot go before Him. Our forgiveness of each other is essential; if we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us.

We have many great examples of forgiveness in God’s Word. King David of the Old Testament is one of them. King David was an ancestor of Jesus Christ. He was the second king of Israel and Judah, mostly known for killing Goliath and for his sin with Bathsheba. He is not known for his compassion or forgiveness. But, throughout 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel, he demonstrates this quality.

Because of King Saul’s jealousy towards David, he tried on many occasions to kill him. 1 Samuel 19:15 states that Saul wanted to kill David so much. He sent men to find him and commanded: *“Bring him up to me in his bed so that I may kill him.”* David escaped and was given the chance to take Saul’s life, but he didn’t. He chose to show compassion. As Saul and his army were in hot pursuit of David, Saul unknowingly entered a cave where David and his men were hiding. Seeing that there was an opportunity to strike Saul, one of David’s men said, *“This is the day the Lord spoke of when He said to you ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’”* (1 Samuel 24:4). After getting close enough to King Saul, to cut off a piece of his garment, David said in verse 6, *“The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.”* This was very uncharacteristic of a strong man, especially one considered worthy of becoming a king. He decided to extend grace, although he was given the perfect chance to take revenge.

His respect for God’s will in his life allowed him to forgive again and again. Another example of David’s forgiveness can be found in 2 Samuel 16:5-12 when Absalom (David’s son) deceitfully won the favor of the people of Jerusalem and David and his officials were forced to flee, in order to avoid being killed. As they reached Bahurim, a man from the clan of Saul pelted David and his men with stones, hurling insults and false accusations at the king. In verse 9, one of David’s officials questioned him as to *“Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king?”* David’s response in verse 10 was *“If he is cursing because the Lord said to him, ‘Curse David,’ who can ask, ‘Why do you do this?’”* He humbly and prudently overlooked the insults and immediately forgave the man (Proverbs 12:16). He emptied himself of all his pride, and status as king, in order to forgive.

The ultimate example of David’s forgiveness and compassion was for his son Absalom. As David sent his troops to recapture Jerusalem, he commanded them to be gentle with Absalom for his sake. When the men returned from the battlefield, his first words were, *“Is the young man Absalom safe?”* As word of Absalom’s death came, David was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said, *“O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you – O Absalom, my son, my son”* (2 Samuel 18:29-33)! King David mourned for his son. There was no remembrance of Absalom’s offense.

King David was not a man without sin (2 Samuel 11). However, as he extended grace to others, the Lord extended grace to him. David committed adultery with Bathsheba and killed Uriah, her husband. In 2 Samuel 12:13, David, confronted with his sin by Nathan the prophet, repented and the Lord forgave him immediately. This is an example of how God wants us to forgive instantly, without conditions.

Pride, as well as the fear of being taken advantage of, has been major stumbling blocks in my life concerning the area of forgiveness. An unforgiving spirit produced anger and doubt in me. God, in His mercy, has allowed certain situations in my life to perfect me in this area. The world teaches us that “three strikes and you’re out.” You should forgive a person once or maybe even twice. However, after the third time, you’re out of chances. It is not so with God. In Matthew 18:21-35, we are taught by Christ to forgive our brother up to seventy seven times (as many times as you have to). Setting the supreme example, our Lord prayed while hanging on the cross, *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing”* (Luke 23:34). How great is our Lord’s forgiveness! He bore all of our transgressions on the cross, at the crucifixion, forgiving our past, present, and future sins. It is easier to forgive when we remember how much we’ve been forgiven. Colossians 3:13 reminds us to *“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”*

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**“For the building up of the Body...”**

**Ephesians 4:12**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 📖 We will not meet for Wednesday night class on September 10<sup>th</sup> (Long Island) and August 24<sup>th</sup> (City).
- 📖 If you would like to order a cassette tape of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- 📖 If you would like to send a Church bulletin or a Bible study to an interested relative/friend on a regular basis, please contact our brother Jack Peisel.
- 📖 All announcements and address/telephone changes should be submitted to Derek Peterson.

**ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGES**

☎ Pramad & Preethi Abraham: Their new address is: 1302 East Broadway, Apt. # 588, Pearland, Texas 77581. Their new phone number is: 281-482-9267

**MISSIONARY SUPPORT**

- ✠ Good News Stand.....Sayville, New York
- ✠ Paolo Di Luca.....Italy
- ✠ Apologetics Press .....International
- ✠ We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- ✠ Ron Clayton.....India
- ✠ Oswaldo Sanchez.....El Salvador, Central America

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**“Your faith toward God has gone forth...”**

**1 Thessalonians 1:8**

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**COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS MINISTRIES**

Long Island Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Robert Carr.....(631) 348-7322  
*New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, NY*

City Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Pedro Gelabert ....(646) 226-2361  
*Plattdeutsche Restaurant, 1132 Hempstead Turnpike, Franklin Square, NY*

**UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS**

For anyone wanting to use his/her vacation in a fruitful way, take a vacation to help bring souls to Jesus. :) Join a “We Care Ministry” soul winning team and help bring people to the Lord. Learn the techniques of the “We Care Ministry” team leaders: Larry West, Bob Danklefsen, and Joe Barker. Room and board will be provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bob Carr.

We Care Campaign Itinerary

<b>2003</b>	<b>Location</b>
T.B.A.	T.B.A.