

of things. While much giving is spontaneous; it is also good to think it out and give deliberately. The great example of giving is, of course, found in the Trinity: the Father giving His Son (John 3:16) and the Son giving Himself (2 Cor. 9) that we might be enriched at His expense. Calculation for blessing and total lack of mere self-interest are the dominant themes of will expressed in both of these institutions. Giving would never be a problem were we to model ourselves after the pattern observed in the Holy Trinity.

It is appropriate to compare our setting with the requirements of the law. The law required a tithe, a tenth, of all for the service of God. Other tithe concepts were added to this and the total requirement of the law was somewhat higher. But the tithe was a payment, in most ways, and not a gift. Gifts came with the bringing of the first fruits, the whole burnt offering, etc. The tithes supported the institution of God's order. The gifts embellished and enriched what had to be done by those who received the tithes.

The material or character of the gift is inconsequential when compared to the actuality of giving. It may be money, material goods, time, love, and even our former subject encouragement. The very important factor is to recognize that you have it and it is given you by God...therefore the sharing should almost seem automatic. We are perplexed, today, by the many people who ask us to give to this and that. It may well be that if the practice of giving were truly recognized in our hearts and acted on in our lives, there would be much less cause for the many askings that come to us almost every day. Learn to impart what you have for the benefit of others...that's learning to give heartily.

2. Giving: What does the Scripture say?

Well, in one short word..plenty! Note the following Scriptures and my brief comments.

a. Luke 6:38, Acts 20:25...The Lord tells us that He loves a cheerful giver and that giving is the way to sustain what we have and what we get.