Blessed by Giving

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Acts 20:35

**35**In all things I have shown you how, working like this, you must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

What a strange thought from Christ: “It is more blessed to give than to receive;” yet, that is the very way God has planned our life as we live in community in society. The exchange of goods sustains the community. And to maintain quality of life it is as vital to give than to receive goods and services from others.

I wish to explore with you something I feel has been given little attention to in my regular Sunday messages – the spiritual practice of “giving.” It is a vital call that we have as the Church and one that should not be ignored, for it opens many doors on both sides of the giver and the receiver. It is a concept that has some elements of mystery because it is based in the spiritual life of the Church, which means, giving is a spiritual activity. Giving is not strictly confined and defined by secular understanding. The biblical text offers a richer meaning.

As I share with you for the next several messages regarding giving, know that I am referencing my understanding of God’s spiritual principles for giving. I am by no means a financial adviser or a consultant, but there are principles that are embedded in the teaching of Scripture that, once again, show how the principle of giving blesses both the giver and the receiver. To not know this may mean we are undermining the very purpose for which we have been called and the kinds of doors that God wishes to open.

So, bear with me for the next several Sundays as we explore this topic which is so rich with meaning and goodness. Until next time.

Blessings,

Rev. Wilber Gamble, pastor