

Abound in Kingdom Giving

John 3:16 (NKJV)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

In the place of abundance, in the year of the overflow, one lifestyle that will be to our advantage to quickly develop, is the life of giving – the kingdom lifestyle of giving. Our goal is to help us understand giving from the kingdom of God’s perspective so that we will give from a place of understanding and abound in our giving in the process. In the place of abundance and in the year of the overflow, your cooperation is greatly required in order for you to see the manifestations of these prophecies.

John 3:16 is one scripture among many that focuses on Kingdom giving. It says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”. This scripture has many components to it. It includes but is not limited to

- What giving is all about
- Dimensions of kingdom giving
- The foundation of kingdom giving
- Qualifiers for kingdom giving (motive, lifestyle of obedience, quality of the gift)
- The characteristics/character of a giver
- What we should give in the kingdom

These and more are some lessons that we can all learn from the word that will help us improve and increase our understanding on Kingdom Giving.

1) What Is Kingdom Giving?

- Kingdom giving is a godly, good and an acceptable lifestyle of a kingdom citizen (A kingdom citizen is one who has accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and have

chosen to live life according to God's terms (the word of God)). We understand from previous teachings that kingdom in this context refers to a way of life – God's way of life. How he does the things he does and how he expects them to be done by us. There are many components that characterize kingdom giving.

- Kingdom giving is spiritual in that it is a quality that aims at emulating God. It is a godlike virtue. The devil does not advocate giving. Selfishness is the opposite of giving and that is what the devil prefers.
- Kingdom giving is an exemplary lifestyle of a kingdom citizen. If you call yourself a kingdom citizen, giving is a necessary aspect of your lifestyle. Relationships are built through giving and that is a great opportunity to win souls to the kingdom.
- Kingdom giving is an act (expression of kindness). Kindness is a fruit of the spirit.
- Kingdom giving pleases God the Father because it is godly, therefore done by faith. Hebrews 11:6...without faith it is impossible to please God. Giving is not a random act or an opportunity to display our worth or capabilities. It is imperative that we live this lifestyle by faith so that God is pleased.
- Kingdom giving for the most part is proactive as we see in John 3:16. God gave man even before the need was realized by man.
- Kingdom giving is a commandment and a requirement for growth
- Kingdom giving is a reflection of our obedience.

2) Foundation of Kingdom Giving

The foundation of all kingdom giving is love. The bible says that “For God so loved the world that He gave...”. The emphasis is on “loved”. His love preceded his giving. Love is certainly not a feeling, rather a decision made in line with the word of God. If God had to consider the sinfulness of mankind before giving His son Jesus, it would have been a very difficult decision to consider. Based on how love is stated in John 3:16, it almost appears as if God had settled it within Himself long ago that He loves Man and nothing was going to change that decision. It says, for God so *loved* the world. Amen.

I believe this should be our stance as well. Even before you encounter people and the situations that will attempt to cause us to hate, we should settle it within us prior, that love is all we have to

offer. 1 Corinthians 13 best explains to us the details of love from a kingdom perspective. Without getting into too many details about love, we are told in 1 Corinthians 13:4 clearly that “Love is patient and love is kind”. That is the definition of love. The two ingredients to love – patience and kindness. So, at every given time, when you are impatient and unkind with a person, you are definitely not living in love towards that person. Also, another aspect of love that we need to understand is that patience and kindness (which is love) is accompanied by actions in order for it to be complete. Love is the Spirit (God is love (1 John 4:8); God is Spirit (John 4:24)). God and love/Spirit and love are all inseparable. Love is the foundation upon which all other virtues are built (like faith, obedience, fruit of the Spirit, etc.) 1 Corinthians 13 continues by expounding on some love qualifiers which I will encourage us to set aside time to study detailly. Your studies in this area will serve as a great foundation as you learn more about abounding in kingdom giving as a lifestyle.

Giving is a requirement in the kingdom therefore, we ought to grow in love purposefully and effectively because our love will be challenged in this world full of wickedness, hatred, ingratitude, pride, etc.

3) Dimensions of Kingdom Giving

Through God’s giving, we are able to understand the extent of kingdom giving.

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1) Sacrificial

The first dimension of God’s giving that we identify here is that, His giving was sacrificial. Apart from love, sacrifice seems to be the most alarming theme of John 3:16. Sacrifice is what sets the tone for our Kingdom walk. It is upon sacrifice – the sacrifice of the ONLY son of God that we are guaranteed eternal life today. It takes sacrifice to effectively live the kingdom lifestyle and that includes our giving. Sacrifice, sacrifice, sacrifice is written throughout the

pages of scripture. I dare to say that our kingdom walk as a whole will be incomplete without a lifestyle of sacrifice.

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship.

Luke 4:1-2 (NIV)

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

Just to name a few. Therefore, in order to abound in kingdom giving, sacrifice is an essential ingredient to consider. Why sacrifice: Because giving in the kingdom is not always convenient, yet beneficial. The timing, the quantity, quality, whom you give to, what you give and more, may not always be convenient for you, yet it is required of you to give regardless.

Sacrifice is good and godly, however, should be done by faith, upon a foundation of love. God exercised faith (Genesis 8:22) when He sacrificed Jesus.

2) Selfless

Sacrifice speaks of a selfless attitude expressed by the one sacrificing. In this case, sacrificial giving.

Sacrifice is an act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as important or worthy.

To be selfless, is to be concerned more with the needs of others than with one's own.

Selflessness is another dimension of Kingdom giving. God was concerned about the eternal destiny of mankind and made provisions for it. The death of His only son.

Selflessness helps a person see the bigger picture. In this case, the future. I believe, in the process of giving His only son, God saw an eternal benefit which He clearly stated. Saying...

“whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life”. He saw the harvest He will reap as a result of His seed He was sowing at the time. So too, if we relate with a depth of understanding of the Father’s love (which is the foundation of kingdom giving) and a bigger picture in mind (selflessness, which is a dimension of kingdom giving), we will not be narrow minded in our approach when it comes to kingdom giving. This leads us to the next dimension of kingdom giving.

3) Purposeful

Kingdom giving is purposeful. In order for us to abound in kingdom giving, we ought to be purposeful. God gave Jesus for the purpose of salvation.

John 3:16 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, ***that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***

The terms of His giving are clearly stated in John 3:16b...that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. His giving was for the purpose of kingdom advancement.

This is our take home message – giving is good however, it is best to give purposefully. Be it the giving of your time or other resources. What is your goal? Or what is your motive for giving? Are you giving to advance the kingdom or are you giving for the purpose of manipulation? You may not always be able to weigh the outcome of your giving, however, it is in your power to obtain wisdom from the word on how to skillfully sow your seed through giving.

4) Impartial

To be impartial is to act just and fair in every situation. When you take a closer look at John 3:16a we are told that “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son”. **God’s love was for the world meaning it was for everyone, not specific people. It was not reserved for the good people and withheld from the bad people.** His love was equally distributed to all

in the world. And that is still the case today. God the Father saw the need for man to be restored through redemption by His son. And that could not be done if He took sides with specific people. 1 John 4:8 tells us that God is love, meaning, that is who He is, His very essence. He does not only love as we see stated in John 3:16, He is love as well. This is very important to highlight because it takes love to be impartial. If at any time you find yourself showing partiality in your giving, check you love walk because partiality is a sign of an affected love walk. Amen. Where else do we see the impartiality of God demonstrated in this verse? **We see the fact that He loved the whole world and was willing to forgive the world despite how far they had drifted from Him.** And that is still the case today.

One thing a sinner is guaranteed when they confess Jesus as Lord over their lives is that they will be forgiven irrespective of how terrible they had lived their lives. As a kingdom citizen, you are also guaranteed forgiveness when you sincerely repent. It is also noteworthy that the justice system of our Father is an expression of His love. We see very clearly that He has made a sacrificial provision for salvation and also stated the outcome for anyone who recognizes and accepts the death of His son as a pathway to redemption. Therefore, if an individual chooses not to accept this sacrifice, there are consequences to that action. Ezekiel 18:20 clearly states that the soul that sins, will die. So, the choice is ours – would you choose eternal life as promised in John 3:16 or will you chose death as promised in Ezekiel 18:20?

5) Generous

The impartiality of God's giving is a reflection of His generosity and generosity is a dimension of kingdom giving. If you are impartial, the scope of your interest through giving is beyond your comfort zone and beyond the people you know and are interested in. To be generous is to show readiness to give more of something. Remember, it is the year of abundance and kingdom giving is one area we are equipping ourselves to abound in. We are still looking at John 3:16 as our verse of interest. God the Father was generous with the only gift He had for man's redemption. He did not hold back. How then do we categorize generosity and the Father's giving if indeed generosity is to show readiness to give more of something. The Father had one son, Jesus. Correct! Who else would He have given? In the kingdom, the quality of your gift is most important than the quantity. There are times when you will have good quality and quantity,

however, quality precedes quantity. The Father was so generous with His most priceless gift to a place where He was willing to give up that gift for people who indeed did not qualify. This, I believe is a very deep and profound revelation of giving.

Most people truly give because they feel that the other person deserves what they have to offer. Others give after private investigations to find out if what they have to offer will be accepted. None of such considerations were made by the Father. He had a priceless gift to offer, He offered it freely to “whosoever”. “Whosoever believes in Jesus, will not perish but have eternal life”. Meaning the name tag of everyone on earth can be attached to that gift if the individual makes a decision to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord of their lives.

6) Time Sensitive

Another attitude I will like for us to learn from the Father is that there is a time sensitivity tag and obedience attached to your generosity. Meaning, yes! You should be ready to give more of something, your quality should precede your quantity. **However, it should be the thing that God the Father is asking you to give.** You should not give more of something just because you have an abundance of it. It is not wrong but that is where obedience comes in. Giving when instructed to and giving what you have been instructed to give as well. Amen.

Let’s look at this example together. The death of a life was the only remedy for our justification. I want you to understand that it wasn’t just the death of any life, but the life of His son, Jesus. What if God decided to sow an animal life first or the life of another human and say you know what, I will sow the life of my son later? Think about the risks involved in that thought process. That decision would not have been time sensitive and it would not have been in line with the word. I hope we all agree with that? Here is the point, God gives generously yet His generosity is guided by time and principles. So, in conclusion, God gives generously, and what we learn from His generosity is that quality precedes quantity, and His generosity is guided by time and principle.

7) In Response To Faith

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For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The Father was confident that someone, someday will believe in the gift he is offering such that they will accept it and also receive the benefits that come as a result of His gift to them.

God gives to us in response to faith because He gives in response to the word. It suffices to say that at any given point, His giving is in response to the word. So too should or giving be in response to the word.

At all times, giving is in response to the word be it the written word or a specific word He speaks to you. Therefore, anyone can and should exercises their faith when it comes to giving. Amen.

8) God Is Source

God is the source and He knows He is the source. This is important to know because when He gives, He does not give with the mindset that He will run out. The source never runs dry. Also, in giving His son Jesus, He did not look up to anyone for that decision to be made. It was His decision to give His only son. When it comes to our giving, we should give with an understanding that He is the source. Sometimes, we need to be reminded about His place as source in our giving. In your giving lifestyle, get to a place where your focus is on the Father and your understanding is that He is the source. This point cannot be over emphasized.

Your giving attitude will change when you make this truth yours. Most often, when we receive an instruction to give we hold back because it could be the very last thing we have but remember that God gave His only begotten son. And today He has many sons and daughters in return.

Your giving is an act of faith; it is your demonstration of your understanding of the principle of the seed; it is your demonstration of confidence in your source and your giving is also your act of obedience.

God gives as the source. We give as channels in that, we can allow ourselves to become the medium through which kingdom resources pass through to others. When this happens, you can be guaranteed that you will never run dry. Amen.

9) Substantial

The Father's gifts to us are of great quality and quantity. If you evaluate every gift of God the Father in your life, you will attest to the fact that it has been of great worth and value. That is how He gives. His very best, all the time. Amen.

I will like us to take a moment to appreciate the Father's gift to us. The gift of His son and every other gift we have received from Him. The gift of His son was a seed He sowed. Most often we do not value a seed as we ought to mostly because, we do not have a full understanding and picture of the harvest we will get as a result of the seed sown.

God's gift of His son is a gift that keeps on giving. Have you ever thought about it? Thousands of years ago Jesus was crucified and resurrected for the purpose of salvation and today many who receive this gift are guaranteed a new life. What a seed?

With this understanding, how differently will you sow your seed? How can you ensure that your gift keeps on giving even in your absence? I believe one way we can do so is by speaking into the seed even before we sow it. Any kind of seed. Be it financial; a word of advice; time, and other resources so that those into whom this is being sown will receive their part and begin to improve in the respective areas.

Add value to your seed with your words. Speak into the future of that seed. Give your seed a mission to accomplish. And do so prayerfully. Amen! Then sit back and watch it manifest for the glory of the Lord. Amen.

10) Patient

Patience plays a key role in giving and that is very evident in the Father's giving even up to this moment. To be patient is one's ability to tolerate delay; to suffer long. When it comes to giving, patience is required. The fact that you have something good and godly to offer is no guarantee that it will always be accepted. Please settle that within you.

-We see patience exercised through love in the Father's giving. We are told in scripture that love is patient, love kind (1 Corinthians 13:4). When we look at our verse of interest we see that love was the reason why He sacrificed His son. It says "For God so loved the world that He gave..."

The Father exercised patience in the giving process in that man was truly undeserving of the gift yet, He had to look past that aspect and still offer the gift of salvation because He had the future in mind.

Even after the gift has been offered and many have received that gift, many others still need to receive the gift of salvation in order to be redeemed. So, the Father continues to be patient with man. We are told...

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. So, my encouragement to you is this, do not despair if the great gift or resources you have to offer are not received. It is not unusual. It is constantly being done to the Father. Continue to trust the Father to redirect the paths of those who will and should receive it from you. Amen. Remain patient in your giving lifestyle. In Jesus Name. Amen.

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