



KEEP CENTERED

03 - THE RIGHT WAY TO PLANT & GROW A HEALTHY CHURCH

Sunday, 9 October 2022 | Church on the Park | Glen Gerhauser

***“LET US NOT LOSE HEART IN DOING
GOOD, FOR IN DUE TIME WE WILL
REAP IF WE DO NOT GROW WEARY.”***

GALATIANS 6:9, NASB

THE RIGHT WAY TO **PLANT & GROW**

A HEALTHY CHURCH

By Glen Gerhauer



1. Put Intimacy Above Ministry

No matter how close your phone is to the outlet, it will not charge unless connected. Intimacy with God is connecting with him. It's the power behind authentic ministry (John 15:5).



2. Stay on the Way of Worship, Prayer & the Word

Stick to God's way. "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death" (Prov. 14:12, NIV).

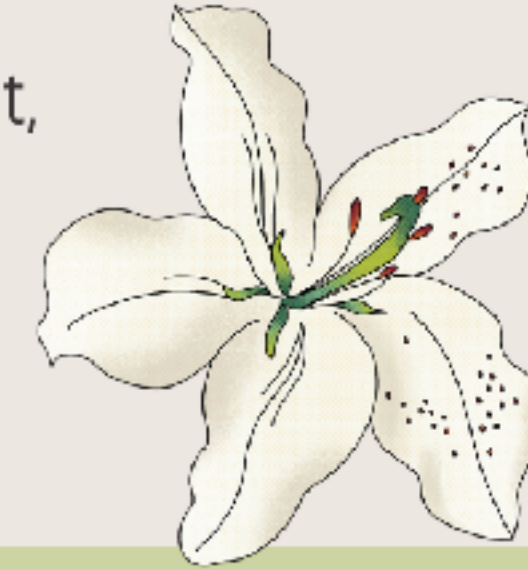
3. Keep Centered on Jesus & His Love

When we become weary of doing good, let's remember it's all about Jesus and his love (Gal. 6:9). Our purpose does not revolve around us but around him.



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AT THE HEART OF LOVE IS GIVING.

**LOVE IS GIVING GOOD TO OTHERS EVEN IF THEY
DON'T DESERVE IT. "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON..." (JOHN 3:16;
MATT. 5:43-48).**

God Loves

Inspiration Translation by Glen Gerhauser

John 3:16-21

God loves everyone and everything. Moved by love, he gave his one-of-a-kind Son - his very heart - as a gift. Everyone who puts their trust in his Son will not be lost but enjoy eternal life.

God sent his Son to everyone and everything - the whole world. It wasn't to fight with the world but to make the world whole through him.

The one who puts his trust in his Son is no longer under the accuser's attack. But the one who doesn't put his faith in the name of God's one-of-a-kind Son - his very heart - is still under the full weight of God's law.

This is how God sees things: his light has come to everyone and everything. But humanity prefers darkness rather than light because they do wrong. Everyone who practices things that are good-for-nothing loathes the light. They don't want to come into the light because light will expose their wrong ways.

On the other hand, everyone who lives authentically has come into the light. It is clear that what they do is done in God - he works within them.

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HERE'S THE TRAP WE CAN ALL FALL INTO. WE START THINKING, "I'VE GIVEN SO MUCH. WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN OUT OF IT?" WE START FOCUSING ON GETTING RATHER THAN GIVING. "WHY AREN'T PEOPLE SHOWING ME LOVE? WHY AREN'T THEY HELPING ME?"

The background features a vibrant gradient from light blue at the top to bright green at the bottom. Overlaid on this is a white, semi-transparent wireframe pattern of a spinning top, which is a geometric shape used in the game of tops. The wireframe is composed of many thin, intersecting lines that create a mesh-like appearance, following the contours of the spinning top.

**ONCE WE START THINKING THIS WAY, THE
SPINNING TOP OF OUR LIVES BEGINS TO WOBBLE.
IT TOTTERS BECAUSE IT LOSES ITS CENTER: LOVE.**

My advice: Don't look at others. Just do what you know is right. Carrying your cross is doing good to others even though they mistreat you (Matt 5:43-48).

A woman with dark hair and sunglasses, wearing a blue and white striped button-down shirt, is smiling and holding a weathered wooden plank. The plank has the words "I'M HERE YOU NOT" painted on it in yellow, block letters. She is pointing her right index finger towards the end of the plank.

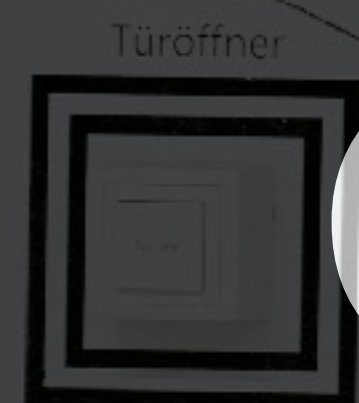
I'M HERE YOU NOT

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

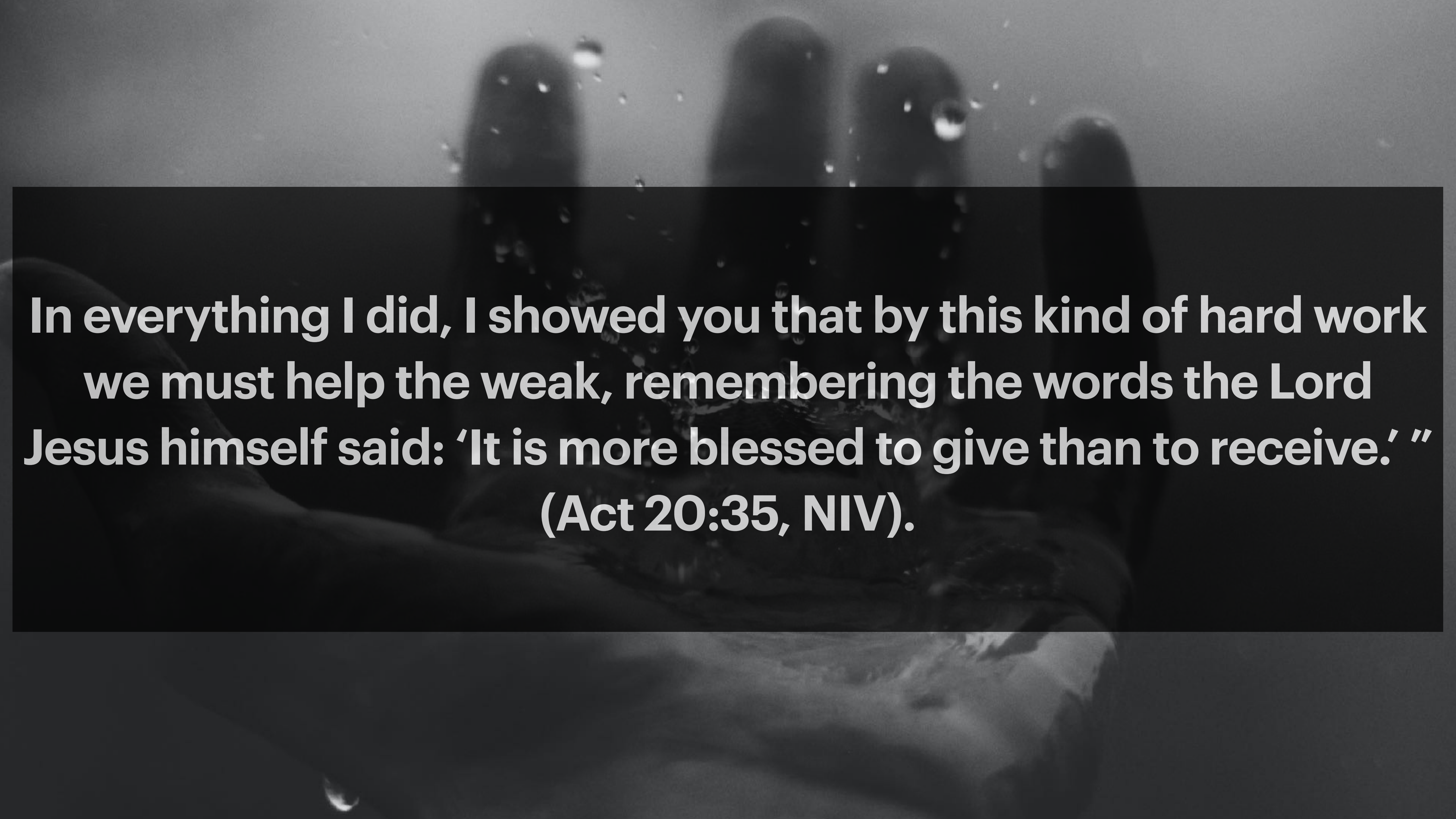
Mt 5:43–48, NIV



WHY GIVE?



Giving is love in action.



In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "
(Act 20:35, NIV).

WHY GIVE?



Since the beginning, giving has been the fruit of authentic faith. Here are some Biblical reasons you should give to the Lord.



GIVING HONOURS GOD

And when you honor God, God honors you. "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first and best part of all your income. Then your barns will be full and your vats will overflow with fresh wine" (Prov. 3:9-10, GW).



GIVING VALUES GOD'S HOUSE, PEOPLE & MINISTERS

Giving to God shows that you appreciate and care for your church and its leaders. "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty" (Mal. 3:10, NIV).



WHAT YOU SOW IS WHAT YOU WILL REAP

Sow generously, and you will reap abundantly. But the opposite is also true. "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap" (Gal. 6:7, ESV).



GIVING STORES TREASURES IN HEAVEN

Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..." (Matt. 6:19-20, NIV).



OUR SPIRITUAL FATHERS PRACTICED GIVING

Before the Law codified giving, Abraham and Jacob practiced offering at least ten percent. God calls us to follow their example of faith. "And Abram gave him a tenth of everything" (Gen. 14:20, ESV; cf. Gen. 28:22 & Hebrews 11).



JESUS TAUGHT US TO GIVE WITH THE RIGHT HEART

Jesus taught that we should tithe with the right heart. "You give a tenth...But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter [tithing], without neglecting the former [love]" (Matt. 23:23, NIV).

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