

6B. God's Agents

Jesus came to this earth to minister to those bowed down with the disease of sin, He gave a tender touch to raise eyes to heaven, He lifted burdens, He gave eternal hope. Jesus left this physical world to minister in heaven, however, He made provision that burdens would continue to be lifted as lives were touched with hands of grace and mercy. This provision to continue serving mankind with a tender touch, is you and me.

“...He (God) has placed Himself under the **necessity** of using human agencies as His helping hand.” Selected Messages Book 1, p. 99

What an awe-inspiring thought – God wants to use me! God has deliberately chosen to work through sinful redeemed humans who are allowing Jesus to create His nature in them. Though Jesus is no longer here to minister in person, He has provided a way for His ministry to live on. As His agents we are Jesus hands and feet, when we minister to those in need, it is as if Jesus Himself were here.

“Christ came to this earth to walk and work among the poor and suffering. They received the greatest share of His attention. **And today, in the person of His children**, He visits the poor and needy, relieving woe and alleviating suffering.” Testimonies for the Church Volume 7, p. 226

God could have given this responsibility to angels, instead He has granted this privilege to you and me. Jesus took on our flesh to walk among us, to show divine sympathy for our plight, to communicate to a fallen race His great love and mercy. God has chosen to use us for the same purpose, to relate, have sympathy, to communicate God's love and mercy face to face.

“**As His representatives among men, Christ does not choose angels who have never fallen, but human beings**, men of like passions with those they seek to save.” The Desire of Ages, p. 296

We have been chosen, however, we do not labor alone, angels are sent to work with us side-by-side, in fact they eagerly await and rejoice to reveal the love of God through our lives.

“We are to be laborers together with the heavenly angels in presenting Jesus to the world. With almost **impatient eagerness** the angels wait for our co-operation; for **man must be the channel to communicate with man**. And when we give ourselves to Christ in wholehearted devotion, **angels rejoice that they may speak through our voices to reveal God's love.**” The Desire of Ages, p. 297

Becoming an Agent

As we experience the cure for sin in our life – as we receive the mind of Christ – it is our privilege to allow God to use us as His agents. This is the qualification to be one of God's agents, a heart yielded to God, willing to be transformed into the divine character. When I yield my nature to God and allow Him to create His nature in me, I become His agent. It is that simple, I yield – He employs.

We tend to get these two reversed, we spend most of our time attempting to work for God, when we should be spending our time yielding. The yielding must come first, it is the base from which our good actions flow; actions that have eternal profits. Any good we may do is worthless, unless it comes from a yielded heart filled with the love of God.

God is not looking for people who will **do** good things, He is searching for people who are willing to **become** one with Christ.

“Our influence upon others depends not so much upon what we say, as upon **what we are**. . . .A consistent life, characterized by the meekness of Christ, is a power in the world.” The Desire of Ages, p. 142

It is easy to get caught up in the thought that we should be **doing** something, instead of the idea that we should be **being** something. God wants to transform our lives so that we characterize Christ. As we allow Him to do this work, we find God making plain to us the **doing** He would have us be involved with, however, the **being** must come first. Therefore, as a heavenly agent, our purpose is singular – allow God to renew our minds.

This yielding to God is a choice to allow Him to create His character in us.

“God could have proclaimed His truth through sinless angels, but this is not His plan. **He chooses human beings**, men compassed with infirmity, as instruments in the working out of His designs. The priceless treasure is placed in earthen vessels. **Through men His blessings are to be conveyed to the world. Through them His glory is to shine forth into the darkness of sin.**” The Acts of the Apostles, p. 330

The *glory* of God is His character. God will accomplish His desire to shine His glory in this dark world, by having a people who allow Him to create His character in them, a people who exhibit God's attributes in their daily lives. God wants to restore His character in a people who have been corrupted by sin, so that through them, He is able to reveal His creative transforming power not only to the world, but to the universe.

“Our lives may seem a tangle; but as we commit ourselves to the wise Master Worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that will be to His own glory. **And that character which expresses the glory--character--of Christ** will be received into the Paradise of God.” The Desire of Ages, p. 331

Work of an Agent

As we allow God to transform us, the glory of the Lord will radiate from our countenance. The evidence of the transforming power of God will be displayed in our lives by the way we relate to the circumstances of life. Instead of our normal way of responding to life with worry and frustration, God gives us His peace, His joy, His patience.

“All who are consecrated to God will be channels of light. God makes them His agents to communicate to others the riches of His grace.” The Desire of Ages, p. 141

As we allow God to create His character in us, we find our life filled with His peace, and our thoughts and actions guided by the Holy Spirit. With that thought in mind, this is my paraphrase of the above quote;

“All who are allowing God to create His character in them will be channels of light. God leads them to perform His works which demonstrate His ability to change hearts.”

The ability of God to change a heart and fill it with His joy and peace is the greatest miracle we can experience. God uses this miracle in our lives as a tangible illustration of what He is offering to do for, and in humanity – restore what sin has destroyed. When others observe us reacting to life’s experiences with a heavenly joy and peace, their curiosity is aroused and they will inquire of our source. God then opens the way to share how we have learned to experience God and how they too may experience the same peace and joy.

Yes, there is a work to do – allow God to change my heart. With my changed heart I become willing to listen for God's direction in what activities He would have me participate in. God will use my daily activity to shine His light through me. God directed activities will include:

Comforting
Seeking the lost
Visiting the poor
Disinterested giving
The relief of suffering
Demonstrating mercy and grace

The purpose of these activities is not just to give to those in need, or to relieve suffering, they are all avenues God uses to demonstrate the tangible intimate relationship He desires to have with every human being. God uses them to show His great love, to show His mercy, to display His ability to take what sin has destroyed and create it anew. These activities are God directed and spring forth from a yielded heart being transformed by God.

As an agent of God we are filled with the power of heaven to be used in the hands of God any way He sees is best to bring His light and love to a dying world.

*“So vast is the field, so comprehensive the design, that every sanctified heart will be pressed into service as an **instrument of divine power.**”* Testimonies Volume 9, p. 46

Application

God invites you to receive His character, to radiate His light to a dark world, to be His hands and feet as you display His love and mercy to those He brings across your path. The following quote sums up God's plan for us.

“...to pray in Christ's name means much.

It means that we are to
**accept His character,
manifest His spirit,
and work His works.”**

The Desire of Ages, p. 668

Our first work is to ‘accept His character.’ When we possess Christ’s character it becomes natural for us to ‘manifest’ His attributes of peace and joy as we become His hands and feet and do His ‘works.’ As we continue to allow God to grow His character in us, the cycle continues, till through His agents, He is able to embrace the world with His light.

My Yielded Heart = Christ's Character in Me = God's Light Shining Through Me =
Others Experiencing the Same

Further Study

“All this newness of life is from God, who brought us back to himself through what Christ did. And **God has given us the task (ministry) of reconciling people to him.** ¹⁹For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. ²⁰**We are Christ's ambassadors, and God is using us to speak to you. We urge you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, "Be reconciled to God!"** ²¹For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.” 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 (NLT)

Instead of Angels

“God might have committed the message of the gospel, and all the work of loving ministry, to the heavenly angels. He might have employed other means for accomplishing His purpose. But in His infinite love **He chose to make us co-workers with Himself, with Christ and the angels, that we might share the blessing, the joy, the spiritual uplifting,** which results from this unselfish ministry.” Steps to Christ, p. 79

God Speak Through Us

“God designs that the sick, the unfortunate, those possessed of evil spirits, **shall hear His voice through us. Through His human agents He desires to be a comforter,** such as the world has never before seen.” Welfare Ministry p. 22

Connecting Link

“He who becomes a child of God should henceforth look upon himself as a link in the chain let down to save the world, **one with Christ in His plan of mercy, going forth with Him to seek and save the lost.**” The Ministry of Healing, p. 105

“...**God now entrusts men with means,** with talents and opportunities, that they may **be His agents in helping the poor and the suffering.** He who uses his entrusted gifts as God designs becomes a co-worker with the Saviour. **He wins souls to Christ, because he is a representative of His character.**” The Desire of Ages, p. 523

“There are souls perplexed with doubt, burdened with infirmities, weak in faith, and unable to grasp the Unseen; **but a friend whom they can see, coming to them in Christ's stead, can be a connecting link to fasten their trembling faith upon Christ.**” The Desire of Ages, p. 297

Co-Labors with the Angels

“**Heavenly angels have long been waiting for human agents--the members of the church--to co-operate with them in the great work to be done. They are waiting for you.**” Testimonies Volume 9, p. 46

Works of God

“He who called the fisherman of Galilee is still calling men to His service. And **He is just as willing to manifest His power through us as through the first disciples.** However imperfect and sinful we may be, the Lord holds out to us the offer of partnership with Himself, of apprenticeship to Christ. He invites us to come under the divine instruction, that, uniting with Christ, **we may work the works of God.**” *The Desire of Ages*, p. 297

Channels of Light

“He says, "You will do more than restore the people of Israel to me. **I will make you a light to the Gentiles, and you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.**"” Isaiah 49:6 (NLT)

“Christ designs that heaven's order, heaven's plan of government, heaven's divine harmony, shall be represented in His church on earth. Thus in His people He is glorified. **Through them the Sun of Righteousness will shine in undimmed luster to the world.**...The church, endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depository, in which the riches of His mercy, His grace, and His love, are to appear in full and final display.” *The Desire of Ages*, p. 680

“We are to be channels of light to the world, **imparting to others the light we receive from the great Light Bearer.**” *Testimonies Volume 6*, p. 329

“The inhabitants of the heavenly universe expect the **followers of Christ to shine as lights in the world. They are to show forth the power of the grace that Christ died to give men.** God expects those who profess to be Christians to reveal in their lives the highest development of Christianity. **They are recognized representatives of Christ, and they are to show that Christianity is a reality.** They are to be men of faith, men of courage, whole-souled men, **who, without questioning, trust in God and His promises.**” *Testimonies Volume 9*, p. 22

“**What is light? It is piety, goodness, truth, mercy, love; it is the revealing of the truth in the character and life.** The gospel is dependent on the personal piety of its believers for its aggressive power, and God has made provision through the death of His beloved Son, that every soul may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work. **Every soul is to be a bright and shining light,** showing forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.” *Review and Herald*, March 24, 1891

“**We are to be Christ's representatives on the earth--pure, kind, just, and merciful, full of compassion, showing unselfishness in word and deed.**” *Medical Ministry*, p. 184

“The fear of God, the sense of His goodness, His holiness, will circulate through every institution. **An atmosphere of love and peace will pervade every department.** Every word spoken, every work performed, will have an influence that corresponds to the influence of heaven. Christ will abide in humanity, and humanity will abide in Christ. **In all the work will appear not the character of finite men, but the character of the infinite God.** The divine influence imparted by holy angels will impress the minds brought in contact with the workers, and **from these workers a fragrant influence will go forth to all who choose to inhale it.** The goodly fabric of character wrought through divine power will receive light and glory from heaven, and will stand out before the world as a witness, pointing to the throne of the living

God... **The earth will be lightened with the glory of God**, and it will be ours to witness the soon coming, in power and glory, of our Lord and Saviour.” The Review and Herald, April 28, 1903

“All the light of the past, all the light which shines in the present and reaches forth into the future, as revealed in the word of God, is for every soul who will receive it. **The glory of this light, which is the very glory of the character of Christ, is to be manifested in the individual Christian**, in the family, in the church, in the ministry of the word, and in every institution established by God's people. **All these the Lord designs shall be symbols of what can be done for the world.** They are to be types of the saving power of the truths of the gospel. **They are agencies in the fulfillment of God's great purpose for the human race.**

God's people are to be channels for the outworking of the highest influence in the universe. In Zechariah's vision the two olive trees which stand before God are represented as emptying the golden oil out of themselves through golden tubes into the bowl of the sanctuary. From this the lamps of the sanctuary are fed, that they may give a continuous bright and shining light. So from the anointed ones that stand in God's presence the fullness of **divine light and love and power is imparted to His people, that they may impart to others light and joy and refreshing.** They are to become channels through which divine instrumentalities communicate to the world the tide of God's love.

The purpose which God seeks to accomplish through His people today is the same that He desired to accomplish through Israel when He brought them forth out of Egypt. **By beholding the goodness, the mercy, the justice, and the love of God revealed in the church, the world is to have a representation of His character.** And when the law of God is thus exemplified in the life, even the world will recognize the superiority of those who love and fear and serve God above every other people on the earth. The Lord has His eye upon every one of His people; He has His plans concerning each. It is His purpose that those who practice His holy precepts shall be a distinguished people. **To the people of God today** as well as to ancient Israel belong the words written by Moses through the Spirit of Inspiration: "Thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth." Deuteronomy 7:6... **Not to this world only but to the universe are we to make manifest the principles of His kingdom.**” Testimonies Volume 6, pp. 11-13

Communicate God's Glory – Character

“Through His people Christ is to manifest His character and the principles of His kingdom.” Christ's Object Lessons, p. 296

“In order to manifest the character of God ... we must become personally acquainted with God. If we have fellowship with God, we are His ministers, though we may never preach to a congregation. **We are workers together with God in presenting the perfection of His character in humanity.** God has enjoined the duty upon His **human agents to communicate the character of God, testifying to His grace, His wisdom, and His benevolence, by manifesting His refined, tender, merciful love. . . .**” God's Amazing Grace, p. 229

“By beholding Christ, by talking of Him, by beholding the loveliness of His character we become changed. Changed from glory to glory. **And what is glory? Character**,--and he becomes changed from character to character. **Thus we see that there is a work of purification that goes on by beholding Jesus.**” Sons and Daughters of God, p. 337

“It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. **His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth.**” Christ's Object Lessons, p. 415

“Those who wait for the Bridegroom's coming are to say to the people, "Behold your God." The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. **The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them.**” Christ's Object Lessons, p. 415

“...You will thus gather rays of eternal light from the throne of glory and scatter them around you. Let me exhort you to engage in this work, scatter this light and life around you, not only in your own path, but in the paths of those with whom you associate.”

Let it be your object to make those around you better, to elevate them, to point them to heaven and glory, and lead them to seek, above all earthly things, the eternal substance, the immortal inheritance,
the riches which are imperishable.

Testimonies Volume 2, p. 593

6C. Channels of Blessings

In the previous section we saw that God desires to demonstrate His ability to transform lives, to reveal through His people His character and capacity to provide peace and joy to a dying world. This has been God's desire throughout all time – to accomplish this on a grand scale, God chose a people and grew them into a nation.

“Through Israel it was His design to impart rich blessings to all peoples. Through them the way was to be prepared for the diffusion of His light to the whole world....”

Counsels on Health, p. 204

God's chosen people were to be examples of His ability to renew a sinful life. As Israel allowed God to change their hearts, God would use them to reveal to the world His saving grace through the evidence of their transformed characters. God planned to bless the nations of the world, physically and spiritually through the Israelite people.

“God desired to make of His people Israel a praise and a glory. Every spiritual advantage was given them. God withheld from them nothing favorable to the formation of character that would make them representatives of Himself.”

Counsels on Health, p. 204

We know the story; every time they grew prosperous, they forgot the purpose and the Source of their prosperity. Israel wanted God's blessings; however, as a nation they were not willing to allow God to change their hearts.

God's Blessings to Present Day Israel

God has not given up; today He is still inviting individuals to allow Him to transform their characters so that He may shine His light through them.

“That which God purposed to do for the world through Israel,...He will finally accomplish through His church on earth today.”

Prophets and Kings, p. 713

God's purpose for His people has not changed; it is the same today as it was in the day of the Israelite nation. God is looking for people who will allow Him to bless them in such a way that the entire world will be lighted by the glory (character) of God. Today, you and I are in a position to learn from Israel's mistakes and allow Christ to shine through us.

“So today God desires His children, both in spiritual and in temporal things, to impart blessings to the world.”

Testimonies Volume 6, p. 274

We must first receive God's blessing before we are able to pass them along to the world. Therefore, God adopts us into His family, with access to our Fathers riches. Paul puts it this way in Galatians:

“And now that you belong to Christ, you are the **true children** of Abraham. You are **his heirs...**”

What do we receive as children of Abraham?

“...now all the promises God gave to him belong to you.” Galatians 3:29 (NLT)

When we become part of the family of God – through faith in Jesus – we inherit the fortune of our parents. As we walk in relationship with our Father and participate in the family, God will impart to us the promises given the family.

“**Had the Israelites obeyed the instruction they received**, and profited by their advantages, **they would have been the world's object lesson of health and prosperity.** The Israelites failed of fulfilling God's purpose, and thus failed of receiving the blessings that might have been theirs. **But** in Joseph and Daniel, in Moses and Elijah, and many others, we have noble examples of the results of the true plan of living. **Like faithfulness today will produce like results.**” Testimonies for the Church Volume 9, p. 165

If Israel had allowed God to change their sinful nature, they would have been a demonstration to the world of God's power and ability to provide for His children. God's plan is the same for us, **‘Like faithfulness today will produce like results.’**

God's plan has not changed, He sought to bless Israel with the intention of shining His light through them, and He will bless us today for the same purpose.

“And so it is: All who put their faith in Christ share **the same blessing Abraham received** because of his faith.” Galatians 3:9 (NLT)

When we are willing for God to renew our minds and use us as His agents, He has promised to provide us the same blessings He provided Israel. What did God promise Israel? Deuteronomy twenty-eight is a great chapter that gives us quite a list.

They would be Blessed with:

- Many children
- Productive fields
- Fertile herds and flocks
- Baskets overflowing with fruit
- Bowls filled with bread

- Their enemies would be scattered
- Their storehouses filled with grain
- They would be blessed with land
- Established as His holy people
- Be looked at in awe by the world
- Have an abundance of good things
- Rain would fall at the appropriate times
- They would be able lend to many, and borrow from none
- They would be the head and not the tail

When you add it all up, God promised to provide everything they needed to be His agents. What is God's promise to His children (agents) today?

“The blessings thus assured to Israel are, on the same conditions and in the same degree, assured to every nation and to every individual under the broad heavens.”

Prophets and Kings, p. 500

Blessings, on the *'same conditions'*, and in the *'same degree'* are *'assured'* to you and me. God is offering to renew our false thinking from that of being poor and having to make due, to the reality that all the riches of Heaven are available to us. Why? Because we are the Sons and Daughters of God, Princes and Princesses of the victorious King of the Universe, the Creator of all that is, we are now part of the heavenly family.

“Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, everything he has belongs to you.” Galatians 4:7 (NLT)

“The whole heavenly treasure awaits our demand and reception;...” Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 510

As God's children we are His ambassadors, His representatives, His agents, and as such He has, is, and will provide everything we need when we need it. This does not mean we will never walk through valleys. Having the Heavenly treasure open to us means we can walk through the valley rejoicing in the assurance that God is providing what is best for us. In the valley we grow in our understanding that God uses every circumstance in which we find ourselves to accomplish two things, 1) create more of His character in us, 2) shine His Light through us to draw men to Him.

With a heart being renewed by Divinity, we continue to learn that God has a thousand ways to provide for us, He is not restricted by our economy or financial system. He is not held captive by market fluctuations. He is sovereign, He is our Creator, He is able to provide in the way that He sees will have the greatest eternal benefits.

Heavens Storehouse

The blessings of God do not always represent a stock pile in our possession. God is teaching us that He is able to provide what we need, the moment we need it. He is teaching us that heaven is our storehouse.

“God's plan for us is so broad, so full, so complete, that we have every reason for co-operating whole-heartedly with Him in carrying it out. There is no reason for hesitancy on our part. . . . We need to draw fresh supplies daily from the great storehouse of God's Word. This will give no time for novel reading, or for anything else that does not edify and strengthen for every good work. . . The riches of heaven are at the command of God's children.” Sons and Daughters of God, p. 325

The storehouse of heaven is available to us through Jesus Christ; because we belong to Him we have access to the very throne of God. Because of Christ we can "...come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to **help us when we need it.**" Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)

When we **need it**, not before, not after. God has the best distribution system in the universe; He has a thousand ways of seeing to it that our needs are met, in the right way and at the right time.

"All eyes look to you for help;
you give them their food **as they need it.**" Psalm 145:15 (NLT)

John Underhill tells an experience about his brother and his dog. "My brother Ron had a dog-named Lucy. She often would bury all the food Ron gave her, and one time buried the bowl along with the food. She didn't realize that as long as she belonged to Ron, she would be fed. We often hoard what God gives us today because we don't trust Him to provide for our needs tomorrow." http://www.bible.org/illus.php?topic_id=644

The future is controlled by God, there is no need for us to hoard. There is no lack in the heavenly store house, it is full and overflowing. God is standing by to generously provide everything we need, and even to give beyond our need so that we have an abundance to share with others.

"And God will **generously provide** all you need. Then you will always **have everything you need** and **plenty left over to share with others**... You will be enriched so that you can give even more generously." 2 Corinthians 9:8,11 (NLT)

God is ready, willing, and able, to provide exactly what we need at a moments notice. The storehouse of heaven is ours, the doors are open 24/7, no appointment needed. As we are willing to allow God to remove our selfishness, He is able to generously provide all we need to carry out His mission. God is teaching us the truth of this little saying, 'If God can get it **through** you, He will get it **to** you.' It does not benefit God's purpose if He supplies us with blessings we are unwilling to use as He directs. God wants to flow through us, to use us as one of His agents, 'unobstructed channels' of His blessings.

"The Lord Jesus seeks the co-operation of such men as will become **unobstructed channels** through which the riches of heaven may be poured out upon the people of His love." Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 343

"God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that **God's generosity can flow through you.**" 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

It is 'God's generosity,' that flows through us, not ours. He is offering to transform our hearts so that we willingly allow His blessings to flow through us to those whom He directs.

I believe this is the answer to understanding the conditionality of God's promises. When we are allowing God to transform our thinking, we grow in our willingness for His blessings to flow

through us, and to be directed in how He would have His blessings dispersed. This direction by God is not arbitrary; God is offering to direct our steps because He knows what path will bring us life.

“Now this is what the Lord says to the family of Israel: **"Come back to me and live!"**”
Amos 5:4 (NLT)

We are always free to choose our own way, however, when we choose God's way He is able to fill us with His joy and peace, and use us to share life with those He brings across our path.

Our willingness to allow God to flow His blessings through us does not come automatically – we grow in that experience as we allow the Holy Spirit to renew our mind and transform our character. As we receive the mind of Christ, it becomes more natural for us to think the way Jesus thinks. When we think the way Jesus thinks, we do the things Jesus would do, and the cycle of blessings continue.

“All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. **And if we consent,** He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, **so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses.** The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience....” The Desire of Ages, p. 668

All We Have Comes From God

Every good thing we have comes from God and belongs to Him. The glory always belongs to God for any abilities, successes or achievements we experience.

“No man has a right to call himself his own. And no man possesses any good thing that he can call his own. **Every man, every thing, is the property of the Lord.** All that man receives from the bounty of heaven **is still the Lord's.**” Review and Herald, December 1, 1904

God is our provider and sustainer, without God we could not take our next breath. Because all we have comes from God and still belongs to God, we cannot be taken advantage of. This means, no one can steal from us, or take from us under false pretenses. If someone takes something without our permission, they are not taking what belongs to us, they are taking what belongs to God.

Yes, God has given us the duty of stewards, however, that does not make us the owner. As His stewards we follow His leading in caring for the blessings He is flowing through us, though it all still belongs to Him. As His stewards we can rest in the knowledge that God will take care of what is His. In that resting we become willing to allow God to take care of what belongs to Him in the way He sees is best.

As we learn to allow God to flow through us, we come to the realization that giving does not cost us, because what we give does not belong to us, it belongs to God.

Blessings of the Spirit

God is our source for all things, our salvation, our temporal blessings, and our emotional state of mind. We do not have to wait until we are free of the sin that surrounds us to be filled with God's peace, love and joy. God desires to fill us with His attributes today.

“...The Lord designs that **his people shall be happy**, and he opens before us one source of consolation after another, that we may be **filled with joy and peace in the midst of our present experience. We are not to wait until we shall get into heaven for brightness and comfort and joy. We are to have them right here in this life...**” The Review and Herald, February 27, 1894

“Let Christians put away their dissensions, **and give themselves to God** for the saving of the lost. **Let them in faith ask for the blessing, and it will come...**All who consecrate soul, body, and spirit to God will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental power. **The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command.** Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of His own life. **The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in heart and mind.** The grace of God enlarges and multiplies their faculties, and every perfection of the divine nature comes to their assistance in the work of saving souls. Through co-operation with Christ they are complete in Him, **and in their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence.**” The Desire of Ages, p. 827

Wow, what an awesome reality to experience the ‘highest energies’ of the Holy Spirit at work in our hearts and minds. God is offering us His characteristics, His very peace, health, love, joy, compassion, mercy, and wisdom to name just a few. These characteristics are not of this world, we cannot conjure them up. The only way we are able to receive them is by the power of God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the attributes of God can only come from God. When we yield our daily agitations to God, He gives us His peace, He fills us with His joy and supplies us with His patience.

As we continue allowing God to grow His image in us, we find we are willing to more quickly yield our ways to Him. When we realize we are troubled or trying to do things on our own, we find ourselves giving less resistance to the Holy Spirit as He draws us to the point where we are willing to yield our thoughts to Him. This growth in our willingness to yield our thoughts to God is evidence that we are experiencing the ‘energies’ of God at work within us.

Further evidence of the Holy Spirit’s work in our life – is that we are able to recognize when we are trying to do things on our own or become aware that we are feeling agitated. If it were not for God's Spirit at work within us, we would not even recognize that the way we are thinking is not God's way.

As we experience God at work in our lives, we have something to share with those He brings across our daily path. We are able to express what God is doing in our life and guide them to an encounter with God that gives them His peace.

“...as we receive the blessing, we in our turn are to impart it...the church becomes a light bearer in the world.” Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 510

Conclusion

God invites you to participate with Him as one of His agents, to allow Him to renew your mind, to shine His light to the world. With that invitation God gives you His word that He will provide all you need to carry out His commission.

**“It is possible to give freely and become more wealthy,
but those who are stingy will lose everything.
The generous prosper and are satisfied;
those who refresh others
will themselves be refreshed.”**

Proverbs 11:24-25 (NLT)

Further Study

Purpose of Israel

“Abraham, their father, to whom the covenant promise was first given, had been called to go forth from his kindred, to the regions beyond, that **he might be a light bearer to the heathen.**” Prophets and Kings, p. 236

“The opinion is held by many that God placed a separating wall between the Hebrews and the outside world; that His care and love, withdrawn to a great extent from the rest of mankind, were centered upon Israel. **But God did not design that His people should build up a wall of partition** between themselves and their fellow men. **The heart of Infinite Love was reaching out toward all the inhabitants of the earth.** Though they had rejected Him, He was constantly seeking to reveal Himself to them and make them partakers of His love and grace. **His blessing was granted to the chosen people, that they might bless others.**” Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 368
“...it was God's purpose that by the revelation of His character through Israel men should **be drawn unto Him.** To all the world the gospel invitation was to be given...As the numbers of Israel increased they were to enlarge their borders, **until their kingdom should embrace the world.**” Christ's Object Lessons, p. 290

God's Purpose the Same Today

“God's purpose for His institutions today may also be read in the purpose which He sought to accomplish through the Jewish nation.” Counsels on Health, p. 204

“So today God desires His children, **both in spiritual and in temporal things, to impart blessings to the world....** But instead of imparting the gifts of God, many who profess to be

Christians are wrapped up in their own narrow interests, and they selfishly withhold God's blessings from their fellow men.” Testimonies Volume 6, p. 274

“From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. **The members of the church**, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, **are to show forth His glory.**” The Acts of the Apostles, p. 9

God's Children

“How we praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with **every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms** because we belong to Christ. Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. His unchanging plan has always been **to adopt us into his own family** by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.” Ephesians 1:3-5 (NLT)

“And now you also have heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as **his own** by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that **he will give us everything he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people.** This is just one more reason for us to praise our glorious God.” Ephesians 1:13,14 (NLT)

Channels of Blessings

“The Lord does not come to this world with gold and silver to advance His work. He supplies men with resources, that by their gifts and offerings they may keep His work advancing....And if men, and women as well, **will become channels of blessing** to other souls, **the Lord will keep the channels supplied.** It is not returning to God His own that makes men poor; **it is withholding that tends to poverty.**” Testimonies to the Church Vol. 6, p. 448

“Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing...” Proverbs 28:27 (NLT)

“Christ has given to the church a sacred charge. **Every member should be a channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace**, the unsearchable riches of Christ. **There is nothing that the Saviour desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and His character.** There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love. **All heaven is waiting** for men and women through whom God can reveal the power of Christianity.” The Acts of the Apostles, p. 600

Blessings Promised to God's People

“Had the Israelites obeyed the instruction they received, and profited by their advantages, they would have been the world's object lesson of health and prosperity. **If as a people they had lived according to God's plan, they would have been preserved from the diseases that afflicted other nations.** Above any other people they would have possessed physical strength and vigor of intellect. They would have been the mightiest nation on the earth. God said: "Thou shalt be blessed above all people." Deuteronomy 7:14.” Ministry of Healing, p. 283

“Every kind and sympathizing word spoken to the sorrowful, every act to relieve the oppressed, and every gift to the needy, if prompted by a right motive, **will result in blessings to the giver.**” Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 218

“If everyone seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness would be always ready to work the works of Christ, how much easier would become the path to heaven. **The blessings of God would flow into the soul, and the praises of the Lord would be on your lips continually.**”
Mind, Character, and Personality Volume 2, p. 495

God's Condition

“The blessings of God, both for the present and for the future life, **the Jews thought to shut up to themselves.**” Christ's Object Lessons, p. 219

“In the parable of the vineyard, Christ near the close of His earthly ministry called the attention of the Jewish teachers to the rich blessings bestowed upon Israel, and in these showed **God's claim to their obedience.** Plainly He set before them the glory of God's purpose, which **through obedience** they might have fulfilled. Withdrawing the veil from the future, He showed how, **by failure to fulfill His purpose, the whole nation was forfeiting His blessing and bringing ruin upon itself.**” Prophets and Kings, p. 710

“**Rich were the rewards, both temporal and spiritual, promised those who should put into practice these principles of righteousness.**” Prophets and Kings, p. 704

“God surrounded Israel with every facility, gave them every privilege, that would make them an honor to His name and a blessing to surrounding nations. **If they would walk in the ways of obedience, He promised to make them "high above all nations** which He hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honor.”” Education, p. 40

“**Had Israel been true to her trust, all the nations of earth would have shared in her blessings.** But **the hearts** of those to whom had been entrusted a knowledge of saving truth, were **untouched** by the needs of those around them. As **God's purpose was lost sight of,** the heathen came to be looked upon as beyond the pale of His mercy. The light of truth was withheld, and darkness prevailed.” Prophets and Kings, p. 371

God is Our Source

“The Lord is disappointed when His people place a low estimate upon themselves. He desires His chosen heritage to value themselves according to the price He has placed upon them. God wanted them, else He would not have sent His Son on such an expensive errand to redeem them. He has a use for them, and **He is well pleased when they make the very highest demands upon Him, that they may glorify His name. They may expect large things if they have faith in His promises.**” The Desire of Ages, p. 668

“And inasmuch as man enjoys the blessings of God in the gift of the sunshine and the gift of food, there must be on the part of man a bowing before God in thankful acknowledgment that **all things come of God. Whatever is rendered back to Him is only His own who has given it.**”
Faith and Works, p. 21

“We are sustained every moment by God's care, and upheld by His power. He spreads our tables with food. He gives us peaceful and refreshing sleep. Weekly He brings to us the Sabbath, that we may rest from our temporal labors, and worship Him in His own house. He has given us His word to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. In its sacred pages we find the counsels of wisdom; and as oft as we lift our hearts to Him in penitence and faith, He grants us the blessings of His grace. **Above all else is the infinite gift of God's dear Son, through whom flow all other blessings for this life and for the life to come.**” Review and Herald, Feb. 9, 1886

“Workers for Christ are never to think, much less to speak, of failure in their work. The Lord Jesus is our efficiency in all things; His Spirit is to be our inspiration; and as we place ourselves in His hands, **to be channels of light, our means of doing good will never be exhausted.** We may draw upon His fullness, and receive of that grace which has no limit.” Gospel Workers, p. 19

Peace of God

“The faces of men and women who talk with God, to whom the invisible world is a reality, express the peace of God. They carry with them the soft and genial atmosphere of heaven, and diffuse it in deeds of kindness and works of love. Their influence is of a character to win souls to Christ. If all could see and understand, and be doers of the words of God, what peace, what happiness, what health of body and peace of soul, would be the result! A warm, kindly atmosphere of love, the pitying tenderness of Christ in the soul, cannot be estimated. The price of love is above gold and silver and precious stones, and makes human agents like Him who lived not to please Himself.--Letter 43, 1895” Medical Ministry, p. 252

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”

Ephesians 3:20-21 (KJV)

6D. Disinterested Giving

As agents of heaven, we are Jesus hands and feet, dispensing His love and grace to those He brings across our path. We are Christ's conduit to impart blessings to others – blessings of comfort and friendship, as well as blessings that meet physical needs.

As we consider what Christ-like giving looks like, we find that our method and attitude of giving are just as important as the act. We also learn that Christ-like giving does not come to us naturally; it is an attribute God grows in us. As we allow God to give us an unselfish heart, we become willing to be of service, to give of ourselves and the means God has blessed us with.

Christ-like Giving!

We begin with God's exhortation tucked away in the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus said:

“Give to those who ask...” Matthew 5:42 (NLT)

Short, simple, to the point, this clear statement leaves no question; God gave us direction to give, to give to ‘those who ask.’ The next question is, how? How do we give the way Christ would.

We begin to find our answer when we turn to Deuteronomy 15:11, where God starts out by telling us there will always be those who are economically challenged in our midst.

“For the poor shall never cease out of the land...”

He then proceeds to tell us **how** to minister to those in need.

“...therefore I command thee, saying, **Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother**, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.” Deuteronomy 15:11 (KJV)

We are to approach giving with an open hand, and not just an open hand, but a **wide** open hand. A wide open hand is a generous hand, a hand that gives abundantly above and beyond the immediate need.

“Thou shalt **furnish him liberally** out of thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress: of that wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him.” Deuteronomy 15:14 (KJV)

This giving is the same way God gives to us, as seen in James 1:5.

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to **all men liberally**, and **upbraideth** not; and it shall be given him.” James 1:5 (KJV)

God gives to us **liberally** with an open hand; He does not look to see how little He can get by with giving. Not only does God give to us liberally, He does not ‘upbraid’ us. Upbraideth is not a word we commonly use today, it is defined as; “to defame, rail at, chide, taunt, reproach, reprove sharply.”

The Amplified Bible gives a clear understanding of this verse and the word Upbraideth:

“If any of you is deficient in wisdom, let him ask of the giving God [Who gives] to everyone **liberally and ungrudgingly, without reproaching or faultfinding**, and it will be given him.” James 1:5, The Amplified Bible

The New Living Translation gives us further understanding that God gives to us cheerfully, and is not offended by our asking:

“If you need wisdom—if you want to know what God wants you to do—ask him, and he will **gladly** tell you. He will **not resent** your asking.” James 1:5 (NLT)

When God gives to us, He does not **chide** or find **fault**, He does not **resent** our asking; He **gladly** gives. God does not condemn us for our need, He supplies our need. We should give in the same way – without condemnation, chiding, scolding, reprimanding, rebuking, casting blame, or feeling resentment. It is easy to fall into one of these attitudes – and on a human level they may be deserved – however, God is asking us to allow His mercy, love, and grace to shine through us instead. In fact, not only are we to give without resentment, we are to give ‘gladly,’ with a cheerful heart. Glad giving comes from a heart rejoicing in the grace of God supplying everything it needs.

“**Give freely without begrudging it...**” Deuteronomy 15:10 (NLT)

“**...God loves the person who gives cheerfully.**” 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

We are to:

give,

give with a wide open liberal hand,

give without finding fault or with feelings of resentment

give ‘gladly’ with a cheerful heart

The next element is, disinterested giving. Disinterested giving is defined in the following verse:

“Do good,...**hoping for nothing again...**” Luke 6:35 (KJV)

Disinterested giving does not mean we do not care, it means we give, expecting nothing in return; giving with no strings attached. It means we have no ulterior motives, save two - an avenue to allow God to change my heart – to allow God to shine through me.

“The sinner who comes to Christ in faith, is joined soul to soul with his Redeemer, united in holy bonds with Jesus...Christ is to him an all-sufficient Saviour; he clings to Christ, receiving of his Spirit, until he works as Christ worked, **is compassionate as Christ was compassionate, having an unselfish love, giving disinterested service, not to a few who are most congenial, but to those who most need the help he can give.**” The Signs of the Times, August 3, 1891

Giving disinterestedly means we give because God has so instructed, not that we might be blessed, not to gain converts, not to have our name in lights. We give because God said, ‘Give.’ When we give with no hidden agenda, we can be sure that all the benefits of giving will come to pass, in God’s time and in God’s way. As we learn to give disinterestedly, with a cheerful, liberal heart, we have God’s promise to us in the last part of Deuteronomy 15:10:

“...the LORD your God will **bless you in everything you do.**” Deuteronomy 15:10 (NLT)

When we give with no strings attached, God has promised His blessings, He has promised us His success. Souls will be in the kingdom because of our willingness to allow God to create in us a heart willing to:

- give,
- give with a wide open liberal hand,
- give without finding fault or with feelings of resentment
- give ‘gladly’ with a cheerful heart
- give with no strings attached

A Willing Heart

A heart willing to give even when we think/know what is given will be misused, or unappreciated, is a heart willing to give to whomever God directs, whether we think they are worthy or not.

“As we see men and women in need of sympathy and help, **we shall not ask, "Are they worthy?" but "How can I benefit them?"**” Ministry of Healing, p. 162

God does not need us to ask why He wants us to give, or if someone is worthy by our standards. God desires willing agents who are ready to give at any time and leave the outcome to Him. When someone asks, our first response should be, ‘Yes.’ When we are hesitant to give, it is more difficult for God to get His wishes through to us.

‘Yes’ as our first response, goes against our natural tendencies. As a part of the sinful human race, we come into this world wanting what is best for ‘me,’ and we learn at an early age what we need to do to get it. To put it bluntly, we are selfish. In our selfish state, we do not realize just how selfish we really are.

We may say on an intellectual level, ‘I am willing to give,’ however, when it comes right down to it, we hesitate. ‘Is this person worthy?’ ‘Will they misuse what is given?’ We attempt to cover up our selfishness through rationalization, we say things such as:

‘God wants me to be a good steward’
‘I do not want to enable someone’
‘If you don’t work, you don’t eat’

These statements may be true, the question is; am I willing to give when God directs, regardless of what I perceive the worthiness may be? Am I willing for God to use the giving opportunity to point out to me how deep my selfishness goes? When we are willing to give whenever asked, God is able to make it clear, what we are to give and how much.

We Benefit When We Give

As we give, we begin to realize that God uses our giving to develop our character. Our willingness to give does not just benefit those to whom we give, God uses our giving to train us to think more the way Jesus thinks.

“Widows and invalids are in the church to prove a blessing to the church. **They are part of the means God has chosen to develop the true character of Christ's professed followers**, and to call into exercise the precious traits of character manifested by our compassionate Redeemer.” Review and Herald, November 19, 1861

Am I willing for God to use giving to further ‘develop’ my character? God uses the experience of giving to show me just how selfish I really am. As God reveals to me my deep-seated ways of thinking that place me first, I have the opportunity to yield my selfishness to Him. With my consent, God is able to transform my thinking into the character of Christ.

This ongoing circle is the sanctification process. God takes us through experiences that reveal what is inside, this gives us opportunities to yield what we are to Him, as we yield, God creates more of His character in us, as we become more like Him, God is able to use us in His work of drawing a dying world to Himself, and the circle continues.

As I experience Christ's transforming work in my life, I find myself growing in my willingness to give:

with a wide open liberal hand,
without finding fault or with feelings of resentment
‘gladly’ with a cheerful heart
with no strings attached

Christ's Light Shining Through Us

As we become more like Christ, God is able to shine more of His light through us, to use us as a conduit of blessing to others. Those blessings come in different forms, from physical tangible hands-on blessings, to spiritual blessings of direction, comfort and peace. God uses the physical blessings to bring us in contact with those who are hurting so He may use us to lead them in experiencing the spiritual blessing of peace that only comes from God.

God wants to grow us to the place where we trust Him implicitly, to trust that when He asks us to give, He knows the work He is accomplishing in the heart of a soul through our willingness to pass on His blessings. We cannot know the stage of relationship to God a person is in. Only the Holy Spirit can know the work He is accomplishing and how He is going to use us in the process.

The following experience is an example of what God can do when we are willing for Him to use us as His agent.

One afternoon I noticed a lady looking at the sofas and I inquired if she needed help. She said 'No.' A little while later I was back out on the floor and she had a question regarding the sofas. At that point I felt God impressing me to **give** her a sofa. She narrowed her choice to a sofa that was marked \$75.00, however, she seemed hesitant. She mentioned that she needed to talk with her husband, so I loaned her my phone.

As she was calling him, I had her follow me to the front of the store. I filled out the donation sheet with her information and had her sign it. She was not aware of why I was filling out the form. I stepped around the corner and said, 'Now I need you to pull your truck up to the curb and we will load the sofa.' My statement took her aback and she said, 'Oh, we haven't decided if we are going to buy it yet.' Out of character, I responded, '**I know, but God told me to give it to you.**' With an astonished look she hesitated, and then realized I was serious. She gave me a hug and went to get her truck.

After loading the sofa she said, 'I have to tell you my story. We recently found out that my daughter has a terminal disease, and I have been home for the last three days crying and contemplating if it was worth going on. I had come to the place where I believed God did not exist. But when I heard you tell me that God told you to give me the sofa, **I realized that there must be a God.**'

This is the purpose of giving – to be used of God as His agent, giving God the opportunity to shine His light in darkness. God is teaching us that as we become more willing to follow His direction and give, He is able to use us in His process of drawing mankind to the Eternal Light - the life giving source of all things.

Disinterested giving is not giving just to be giving – it is a God directed giving. The point of disinterested giving is not to see how much we can give, the point is to be **willing** to give when and whatever God asks. There are times when we think we should give a lot, and God directs to give a little. There are times when we think we should give a little, and God directs to give a lot. Only God knows what He is doing in a person's life, He knows how He is going to use our willingness to give, in His process of drawing a soul to Him.

God directed giving, is allowing the Holy Spirit to give us His thoughts, words, and actions which He will use to draw others to Himself.

“Remember that the Lord Jesus is the Master Worker. He waters the seed sown. He puts into your minds words that will reach hearts.” Testimonies to the Church Volume 9, p. 41

We are Recipients of God's Grace

When we are tempted to look down on those to whom we are giving, it is good to remember that we were poor, blind and naked – slaves to sin. Jesus Christ came and freed us from bondage; God has redeemed us through His limitless grace.

“Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you!” Deuteronomy 15:15 (NLT)

Notice the past tense, God does not want us to stay poor, blind and naked. His desire is to continually move us to higher and higher levels of righteousness. And so it is with those He would have us serve. He will provide ways for us to educate, train, lead and guide those He brings to us, into more productive ways of living. However, regardless of what educational programs we may have – the poor will always be with us, there will always be those to whom God would have us give care.

Continue to Give

Giving is not a goal to be reached, where we say, ‘Ok I have given; now I am done.’ It is an on going experience where we continue to allow God to use us as His channels of blessings.

“As we are continually receiving the blessings of God, so are we to be continually giving. When the heavenly Benefactor ceases to give to us, then we may be excused...Not till we wish the infinite Father to cease bestowing His gifts on us, should we impatiently exclaim, Is there no end of giving?” Review and Herald, February 9, 1886

Praise God that His giving to us is constant, He never grows weary, His mercies are new every day. God would have us eagerly await opportunities to be His hands and feet, to give, to demonstrate His love and mercy to those He brings to us. We have God's promise to not only provide for our needs, but to provide an abundance to bless others.

“And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you **need and plenty left over to share with others....**You will be enriched so that you can give even more generously.” 2 Corinthians 9:8, 11 (NLT)

As we allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify us, we become more willing to give – with an open, liberal, rejoicing hand, expecting nothing in return. With this attitude of giving, we truly become the hands and feet of our Lord. As we give, the blessings of God will continue to be upon us – and the cycle continues.

“...the godly are generous givers.”

Psalm 37:21 (NLT)

Further Study

“Do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again: and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for He is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.” Luke 6:35 (KJV)

“The goodness and forbearance of God, His self-sacrificing love to sinful men, **must lead all who discern His grace to manifest the same, to give sympathy liberally to others.** The wonderful example of the life of Christ, the matchless tenderness with which He entered into the feelings of the oppressed soul, weeping with those that wept, rejoicing with all that rejoiced in His love, must have a deep influence upon the character of all who love God and keep His commandments. **They will give sympathy, not grudgingly but liberally; by kindly words and acts they will try to make the path just as easy for weary feet as they desire the path to be made for their feet.** As we receive daily and hourly the blessing of God, we can do no less to show our gratitude than to have a kindly, unselfish interest in those for whom Christ has died. **Have we blessings? Yes, we have. Well, Christ says, Pass them along to others, not to a favored few, but to all with whom we come in contact.** We must give grace for grace.” Our High Calling, p. 183

Poor with you always

“You will always have the poor among you...” Matthew 26:11 (NLT)

“When all has been done that can be done in helping the poor to help themselves, **there still remain** the widow and the fatherless, the aged, the helpless, and the sick, that claim sympathy and care. **Never should these be neglected.** They are committed by God Himself to the mercy, the love, and the tender care of all whom He has made His stewards.” The Ministry of Healing, p. 201

Disinterested Service

“Many can be reached only through **acts of disinterested kindness. Their physical wants must first be relieved.** As they see evidence of our unselfish love, it will be easier for them to believe in the love of Christ.” Counsels on Health, p. 391

“**All who are consecrated to God will be channels of light.** God makes them His agents to communicate to others the riches of His grace. . . . Our influence upon others depends not so much upon what we say, as upon **what we are.** Men may combat and defy our logic, they may resist our appeals; but **a life of disinterested love is an argument they cannot gainsay.** A consistent life, characterized by the meekness of Christ, is **a power in the world.**” The Desire of Ages, pp. 141, 142

“They do not love their neighbors as themselves. **It would be more pleasing to God were there less selfishness and more disinterested benevolence.**” Testimonies Volume 2, p. 51

“Doing good is a work that benefits both giver and receiver... That person who is actuated by true disinterested benevolence is a partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust...” Testimonies Volume 2, p. 534

God uses our disinterested service

“Sin is the greatest of all evils, and it is ours to pity and help the sinner. But not all can be reached in the same way. There are many who hide their soul hunger. These would be greatly helped by a tender word or a kind remembrance. There are others who are in the greatest need, yet they know it not. They do not realize the terrible destitution of the soul. Multitudes are so sunken in sin that they have lost the sense of eternal realities, lost the similitude of God, and they hardly know whether they have souls to be saved or not. They have neither faith in God nor confidence in man. **Many of these can be reached only through acts of disinterested kindness.** Their physical wants must first be cared for. They must be fed, cleansed, and decently clothed. As they see the evidence of your unselfish love, it will be easier for them to believe in the love of Christ.” Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 387

“The spirit of Jesus should pervade the soul of the worker; it is the pleasant, sympathetic words, the manifestation of **disinterested love for their souls, that will break down the barriers of pride and selfishness, and show to unbelievers that we have the love of Christ; and then the truth will find its way to the heart. This is our work, and the fulfilling of God's plan.**” Evangelism, p. 636

“**Many have no faith in God** and have lost confidence in man. But they appreciate acts of sympathy and helpfulness. As they see one with no inducement of earthly praise or compensation come into their homes, ministering to the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, comforting the sad, and tenderly pointing all to Him of whose love and pity the human worker is but the messenger--**as they see this, their hearts are touched. Gratitude springs up. Faith is kindled.** They see that God cares for them, and they are prepared to listen as His word is opened.” The Ministry of Healing, p. 145

“Hundreds of men should be engaged in carrying the light all through our cities, villages, and towns...**He designs that men shall be channels of light, bearing it to those who are in darkness.**” Testimonies Volume 4, p. 389

God blesses as we give

“Give freely without begrudging it, and the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do.” Deuteronomy 15:10 (NLT)

“There is need that institutions be established in different places, that men and women may be set at work to do their best in the fear of God. No one should lose sight of his mission and work. Everyone should aim to carry forward to a successful issue the work placed in his hands. All our institutions should keep this in mind and strive for success; but at the same time **let them remember that their success will increase in proportion as they exercise disinterested**

liberality, sharing their abundance with institutions that are struggling for a foothold.” Counsels on Health, p. 309

“In your care of the sick, act tenderly, kindly, faithfully, that you may have a converting influence upon them. You have need of the grace of Christ in order to properly represent the service of Christ. And **as you present the grace of truth in true disinterested service, angels will be present to sustain you.** The Comforter will be with you to fulfill the promise of the Saviour, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."” Medical Ministry, p. 196

Continual Giving

“The giving that is the fruit of self-denial is a wonderful help to the giver. It imparts an education that enables us more fully to comprehend the work of Him who went about doing good, relieving the suffering, and supplying the needs of the destitute.

Constant, self-denying benevolence is God's remedy for the cankering sins of selfishness and covetousness. God has arranged systematic benevolence to sustain His cause and relieve the necessities of the suffering and needy. He has ordained that **giving should become a habit**, that it may counteract the dangerous and deceitful sin of covetousness. Continual giving starves covetousness to death.” The Adventist Home, p. 370

Jesus example

“Jesus had now given three years of public labor to the world. **His example of self-denial and disinterested benevolence** was before them. His life of purity, of suffering and devotion, was known to all.” The Desire of Ages, p. 541

“**The Saviour's entire life was characterized by disinterested benevolence** and the beauty of holiness. He is our pattern of goodness. From the beginning of His ministry, men began to comprehend more clearly the character of God. He carried out His teachings in His own life. He showed consistency without obstinacy, **benevolence without weakness**, tenderness and sympathy without sentimentalism. He was highly social, yet He possessed a reserve that discouraged any familiarity. His temperance never led to bigotry or austerity. He was not conformed to the world, yet **He was attentive to the wants of the least among men.**” Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 262

“You should cultivate benevolence,
which will bring you more into harmony
with the spirit of Christ in His
disinterested benevolence.”

Testimonies to the Church Volume 4, p. 56