

Give Me . . .

'Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world' – Archimedes

'Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe' – A. Lincoln

'I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death' – Patrick Henry

[Next generation shouted, '*Give me liberty*']

[Present generation shouts, '*Give me*']

- It's easy to receive; we learn to be givers
- Ep.1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

# I. “Give Me” is Wrong When . . .

1. Connects us with evil, Gn.14:21-23
2. Costs too much, 2 Sm.23:13-17
3. Covetousness is behind it, Pr.30:7-9
4. Cause is revenge, Mk.6:...24-25
  - Rejected God's word; her word prevailed; God has last word
  - John remained faithful despite her wrath, his execution

“Better that sinners persecute ministers now for their faithfulness, than curse them eternally for their unfaithfulness” – Henry

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2. Costs too much, 2 Sm.23:13-17
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4. Cause is revenge, Mk.6:...24-25
5. Caters to selfishness, Lk.15:...12
6. Consumed with worldly pleasures, Ja.4:3
  - 2 Sm.12:8
  - Prov.7:23
  - Mt.26:15-16

I. “Give Me” is Wrong When...

II. “Give Me” is Right When It...

## 1. Hungers for God's promise, Gn.15:2

- Some think: “I’m God’s creation, so I must be His heir.”
- Jews thought: “I’m child of Abraham, so I’m his heir.”
- John / Jesus: not physical descent, but spiritual (Mt.3; Jn.8)



1. Hungers for God's promise, Gn.15:2
2. Hopes for sure salvation, Josh.2:12...
  - Safety, 20-12
  - Share, 13
  - Submission, 14-21

1. Hungers for God's promise, Gn.15:2
2. Hopes for sure salvation, Josh.2:12...
3. Heart yearns to understand God's will,  
2 Chr.1:...10, Now give me wisdom and  
knowledge, that I may go out and come in  
before this people; for who can judge this  
great people of Yours?
  - Ja.1:2, count it all joy when you fall into  
various trials. 3 knowing that the testing  
of your faith produces patience

1. Hungers for God's promise, Gn.15:2
2. Hopes for sure salvation, Josh.2:12...
3. Heart yearns to understand God's will, 2 Chr.
4. Helps us save souls, Jn.4:7...10
  - No one can outgive God
  - Jesus came to give, that we might receive, that we might give, that others might receive

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2. Hopes for sure salvation, Josh.2:12...
3. Heart yearns to understand God's will, 2 Chr.
4. Helps us save souls, Jn.4:7...10
5. Heightens our service, 2 Co.8:9
  - Great trial / test of affliction, joy...
  - According to power
  - Free will
  - Why: First gave themselves to Lord? ?

## 2 Co.8:9

V.1: based on God's grace

V.2: tested in furnace of trial and trouble

V.3: beyond call of duty

V.4: poor begged for privilege of giving

V.5: their first gift: themselves

V.7: 'and in your love'

- The Corinthians had repented; their love was restored
- As they had abounded in other things, they should abound in grace... (the gift itself)

## Chrysostom, v.7

“And he [Paul] said not, that you give, but that you abound; in faith...in utterance, and knowledge, and in all earnestness, to the attaining of all other virtue, and in your love, that you may abound in this grace also”

This is a test of Corinthians' sincerity / love, 8

We study NT churches to test our love

“Generosity is the natural result of sincere love.”