(37) Live, **Give**, Grow, Go GIVE: Principle of Reciprocity & a Transformed Heart

**Video Testimony of the Buchanans**

*Four Spiritual Principles of Giving (October 8-29)*

1. We are Stewards NOT Owners
2. Only What is Given Away Can Multiply
3. The Secret of Contentment
4. **The Principle of *Reciprocity and a Transformed Heart***

**Luke 6:36-38**

**38**Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, *and* running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”

* This passage is often misunderstood and misapplied
  + This is a principle true not just about money, but in **every area of our lives…**

**36**Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. **37**“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned.

* **Important to understand these terms: *“good measure -- pressed down, shaken together, running over…”***
  + Farming Terms
  + Old Testament Law

**The Law of Gleaning**

**9**‘Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. **10**Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the Lord your God.

* + 2 Types of Harversters in the field (the hired workers & the poor or gleaners)
    - The difference between how they filled their baskets…
* Jesus says, when you Give like God – You will be given back…**but more, so much more!**

**Galatians 6:7-8**

**7**Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; **for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8**For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Motivation of the Transformed Heart

But here WE MUST BE VERY, VERY CAREFUL…

* + Reward is NOT the *MOTIVATION* but the *RESULT*
  + This is not about Getting…It’s about Giving…

It’s about a **Transformed Heart**…A Heart Like God’s Heart…To Give Like God Gives

**Luke 6:30-35**

“**30**Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. **31**Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. **32**If you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners love those who love them. **33**If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners do the same. **34**If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is *that* to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same *amount*.**35**But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; **and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*.**

* + This is not about Getting…It’s about Giving…
  + Giving does a supernatural work on our hearts…
  + It’s about being true sons and daughters of the Most High…
* **James 4:3**

**3**You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may **spend *it* on your pleasures**.

* + So, What am I meant to spend it on…?

“I Don’t Take this Mission Post for Granted”

**2 Chronicles 16:9**

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth **that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.**

**God has all the resources of the universe at His disposal. He sees:**

* Poor People that need food and clothing to survive
* Elderly and Shut-ins who need help, support, and relationship
* Missionaries who need to be equipped and sent
* Churches that need to be built, established, and grown
* Generations that don’t know Him that need to be reached and taught
* Hurting Families destroyed by divorce, addiction, and abuse that need healing
* Forgotten and Marginalized people who need compassion and to be valued
* Discouraged and Despairing souls that need hope

Brothers and Sisters…My Sweet family – I don’t speak from anger, I speak from the conviction of my own heart…

I have dreams…

* This Capital Campaign is NOT ABOUT MONEY…It’s about
  + BEING WHO GOD MADE US – TRANSFORMED US -- TO BE…
  + FULFILLING OUR MISSION *TOGETHER*…

**John 15:7-8**

**7**If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and *so* prove to be My disciples.**