



## THE PROOF OF LIFE

### Jimmy Evans

**Focus** Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Giving sets us free from the bondage of greed and selfishness and provides incredible blessings from God, such as a longer, happier, and more abundant life.

**Fun** What kind of giver are you? Take this fun, three-question quiz to determine if you are an advocate, aid worker, philanthropist, or other type of giver:  
[worldvision.org/charitable-giving-news-stories/giving-quiz-what-kind-of-giver-are-you](http://worldvision.org/charitable-giving-news-stories/giving-quiz-what-kind-of-giver-are-you)

**Review** Key Scriptures: Acts 20:32–35

#### 1. Proof on the Power of Giving from the Words of Jesus

*Acts 20:32–35*

- Truth #1: It is blessed to receive.
- Truth #2: The person who gives is more blessed than the person who receives.

#### 2. Why Giving Is More Blessed than Receiving

The key to being blessed is not in how much we can get but in how much we can give. Giving opens the door to great blessings from God. It breaks the spirits of selfishness, self-consciousness, entitlement, and poverty off of us. Giving is dynamic and receiving is static. Giving is in my control and releases the power of a universal law of God. Giving also keeps my heart turned toward the object of my affection and reveals the reality of God’s presence, love, and faithfulness in my life.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Take inventory around your home, as Pastor Jimmy did, to determine if anything you're holding on to could bless someone else. Consider having a group garage sale and giving the proceeds to a worthy cause or ministry, such as Heart for the Kingdom or a local outreach.

### Discuss

1. What kind of giver does God love? (2 Corinthians 9:7)
2. According to Acts 20:35, who are we called to help or support?
3. God blessed Abram so he could be a blessing to others. Which of your blessings would benefit others? (Genesis 12:1–3)
4. How is our standard of giving measured against our blessing? (Luke 6:38)
5. Think about the things you treasure most. What adjustments, if any, do you need to make to have a more God-centered focus? (Matthew 6:21)

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- Giving takes the focus off us and puts it where it needs to be—on God and others.
- God wants to bless us so we can be a blessing.
- A blessing is the supernatural favor, assistance, and protection of God.
- Whatever you give will come back to you according to your standard of measure.
- God's will is for everyone to be blessed. We control our level of blessing based on our level of giving.

### Prayer

Father God, thank You for everything You bless us with each day—life, love, provision, and so much more. Remove any ungodly spirits of selfishness or greed that try to distract us from Your purpose. Let us cheerfully serve those in need and may all that we do honor You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Pray for those in financial need in your group, particularly those who may be hesitant to speak up. If you feel led, encourage them to check out Gateway's Stewardship ministry at [stewardship.gatewaypeople.com](http://stewardship.gatewaypeople.com). The Stewardship ministry is always happy to help equip and train people and triage any financial situation.