

THE GIFT THAT GOD DELIGHTS IN



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(Acts 20:32-35).

This document is the English version of the original document “Le don auquel Dieu prend plaisir”.

This brochure is a message of exhortation and edification. As the word of YHWH¹ (GOD) reminds us in the epistle of Paul in Colossians chapter 3 verse 16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God”. Shalom to all and be abundantly blessed by this message in the name of YEHOSHOUA HA MASHIAH (JESUS-CHRIST) our Lord! Amen.

*“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. 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.**” (Acts 20: 32-35, NIV²).*

As a child of God, we have to put into practice all the Lord’s recommendations: One of the Lord’s recommendations which is often neglected but not the least which is: “*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*” It is easier to receive than to give, most often; we love receiving from others but very few people give or love to give. The Lord has made me understood that this notion is very important and it is important to discern the depth of the word “*to give*”. True love

¹ YHWH or YHVH: Translated by the Lord in the majority of French bibles, this Tetragrammaton is the name of God revealed to Moses in the book of Exodus. With time this Tetragrammaton became YaHWeH or YaHVeH.

² NIV: New International Version (Bible Version).

according to Elohim is accompanied with “giving”. We cannot say that we love the Lord or someone if we cannot give. Because the Lord himself gave by showing us an example:

*“For God so loved he world **that he have his one and only son**, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NIV).*

“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:18, NIV).

The Lord Jesus also made me understand that “giving” signifies “sacrificing”. The value of our gift is measured by God based on the value of our sacrifice. God loves us so much that he gave his **only Son**. How many of us are willing to sacrifice all he has left to make person another smile? This is the biggest sacrifice that God has offered to humanity. The proofs of God’s love towards us are so innumerable, for God has given us in so much (that is the breath of life, health, protection, food ...) since our child birth; and he continuous to do so until now. If we love God, we have to give to him in return. There is one thing that the Lord awaits of us which is **the gift of our heart**. *“For where your treasure is, there is your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21, NIV).* The question each of us must ask ourselves is as follows: where is my heart??

The Bible says: *“assign your nuggets to the dust, your gold of Ophir to the rocks in the ravines, then the Almighty will be your gold, the choicest silver for you. Surely then you will find delight in the Almighty and will lift up your face to God. You will pray to him, and he will hear you, and you will fulfill your vows. What you decide on will be done, and light will shine on your ways. When men are brought low and you say, ‘lift them up!’ then he will save the downcast. He will deliver even one who is not innocent, who will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands.” (Job 22:24-30, NIV).*

The true children of Elohim having understood this principle of “giving”, The Lord blessed them in return. They do the work of Yahweh without any trouble, and what interested was to gladden the heart of God. King David will say *“I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”(Extracted from 2 Samuel 24, read from verse 21-25).* The sacrifice in which the Lord finds pleasure in; is that which costs us a lot. We can see another example in the Bible:

“As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. I tell you the truth, he said, this poor widow

has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.” (Luke 21:1-4, NIV).

The Lord made me to understand that; most often we want to be rich before giving. Consequently we spend most of our time giving out of our excess. The poor widow here did not have a lot of money but wanted to give an offering to her creator. She did not look on her limited means, but she gave out what she had for she knew that Elohim looks upon the heart. Meanwhile in a human’s point of view, what this widow gave is nothing as compared to what the rich gave; but according to Jesus Christ, what this widow gave was more valuable than all the other gifts. The way God considers greatness is not the same way human beings consider greatness for human beings spend more time looking at the appearance while God looks upon the heart. We spend our time looking from the view point human asking ourselves these questions: Will what I have be sufficient for the person? Is it not better for me to have this or that amount before giving?

*“But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. **Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.**” (1 Samuel 16: 7, NIV)*

*“Now finish the work so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it according to your means. **For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.**” (2 Corinthians 8:11-12, NIV).*

The Lord Jesus Christ told me that true sacrifice is when we know that we have nothing but we can still give to the LORD. Indeed, we give all we have, coming from our heart and the Father rejoices. I realized that as a Christian, **we are called to give**. We spend most of our time complaining because we do not realize the value of what our Lord has given to us. Meanwhile if we take a closer look at our lives, we will surely find something that the Lord has given us. This is going to encourage us to give thanks to the Lord in all things (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**). This sacrifice we have to offer to the LORD must not always be “big according to the world”, it can be something simple but **precious** according to God.

*“And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trials, **overflowing joy and their extreme poverty** weld up in rich generosity. **For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even***

beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave first to the Lord and then to us in keeping God's will" (2 Corinthians 8:1-5, NIV).

Let's ask ourselves these questions: how can extremely poor people be able to give out money? Not only giving, but they gave above their means?

Answer: They simply organized themselves with the little they had and they were able to do something.

With the power of will, even with little, we can do great things for the Lord. It is to be noted that before the Macedonians engaged themselves in such project, they gave themselves completely to the Lord and to the brothers. So it is the love for God and for the brothers which pushed them to make this great sacrifice for the Lord. How will the Lord not approve this kind of sacrifice?

The true meaning of consecration is the gift of oneself that is giving oneself totally to Jesus Christ. Yahweh calls us to give him all we have for everything belongs to him.

What are the different gifts that we can offer to our Lord?

- **Our bodies:** As Christians, our bodies belongs to the Lord. We have to give him our hands (all our actions), our legs (all the places we go to), and our mouth (all the words we speak), and our hearts (all our thoughts)... **(Romans 6:19 and Romans 12:1).**
- **Our time:** You may say that you spend all your day working and you don't have enough time. With your free time (2hours, 1 hour, 30 minutes...), how willing are you to sacrifice yourself for the Lord in prayers, the meditation of the word or for evangelism? The Lord does not want something big if only you have the will, you can do more. **(Colossians 4: 5 and Ephesians 5:16).**
- **Our energy/force:** How many hours of sleep and of rest are we ready to sacrifice for the Lord? Do we serve the Lord faithfully when we are in good health? More so, we do not have to forget that the state of good health we have now is a gift from the Lord; for if we look around us, we will notice that the actual state of which we are complaining of, to ourselves and even to God is most often a thousand times better than the state of others. Just spend a day in the hospital in order to understand it definitively. **(Luke 10:27).**

- **Our money:** Which sum of money do we give to sustain the work of the Lord, to help those who are in need? Do we always wait in order to solve all our problems before giving? Or do we continue to give even when we are faced with problems? What comes out from our heart has value in the eyes of the Father. Most often, we are ready to sacrifice a lot of things in order to obtain the things of this world; but why can we not do same for the Lord? We are ready to sacrifice our hours of sleep, our energy, our intelligence and even our money to obtain certificates, in order to add our financial revenue, in order to buy objects, in short for success. The Lord wants us to serve him in this manner for he can do more than we can ever ask or think (**Ephesians 3: 20**).
- **Our properties:** it is written in book of Proverbs chapter 3 from verse 9 to 10 “*Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all you crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine*”.

What are the belongings the Lord has given you? As the servants of God, the Lord has given us all the talents (**Matthew 25: 16-31**). How are we using our gifts, talents for God’s work? Here are some complaints or pretext we find amongst our fellow Christians:

“I don’t have enough talents”; “it is this or that person who has to do it”; “I cannot do this because everyone has his own talent!”; “there are brothers and sisters who are in charge of this; I prefer to do my personal things”. What the Lord has given to you (intelligence, capacity, exhortation, voice, testimony) what have you done with it? We don’t need much to begin, let’s make use what we have. For we shall render an account to Yahweh, we shall have no excuses before the Lord on the Day of Judgment for the Lord do not look at the quantity but rather quality, what comes from our heart.

The word of the Lord teaches us that we are participants of the divine nature of Christ. (**2 Peter 1:4, 1 Timothy 6: 2**). A participant is not a spectator but rather an active person, dynamic, who gives things that will contribute to the advancement of the work of God.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ” (**2 Corinthians 9:6-8, NIV**).

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all thing through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen”
(1 Peter 4: 10-11, New Revised Standard Version).

*“The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’ “His master replied, ‘**Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share you master’s happiness!**’ The man with two talents also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.’ “His master replied, ‘**Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share you master’s happiness!**’ Then the man who received one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid you talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ His master replied, ‘**you wicked, lazy servant! So you know that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. “Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**’ (Matthew 25: 20-31, NIV).*

To sum up, we identify in the Bible two levels in giving:

- ❖ **Giving according to our means:** this is the first level of giving, this is the level where we must start with the Lord. We have for instance the case of King David (2 Samuel 24: 21-25), the case of the widow in the temple (Luke 21: 1-4), the case of the Christians in the church of Jerusalem (Acts 2: 41,47).
- ❖ **Giving above our means:** This is the ideal level for the Lord, he would love us to constantly be at this level. By the way, we have made Jesus Lord of our life. We are his slaves, all we have belongs to him. If he asks us to give him all, we have to obey him entirely without hesitating. For example we can see the case of the church of Macedonia (2 Corinthians 8: 1-3), the sacrifice of the widow from Zarephath (1

Kings 17: 9-16), Abraham with the sacrifice of his only son (Genesis 22: 1-3). The rich man who had a certain fear of the Lord refused to experience this level of giving (Luke 18:18-23).

To conclude, we are going to end with this thought the Lord made me understand. Before doing something for the Lord or for men (2 Samuel 24: 24), we must ask ourselves this question: **“What will this action cost me?”** If the answer is; it costs me nothing, then this signifies that the action am about to take is **superfluous** (needless) in the eyes of the father. The observation we made and which is alarming is that we spend more time giving out the superfluous (surplus) of our time, our force, of our intelligence our money... to the Lord; While God doesn't like superfluous (or excess). We can see in the case of the church of Ephesus in the book of **Revelation**, in chapter 2 from verse 1 to 5. This church abandoned her first love, her first works. In the beginning of the conversion of Christians in this church, they gave themselves to the Lord, but after they became satisfied and started giving their surpluses to the Lord.

Lord Jesus, I give you thanks for this word you delivered this day and I know that it will do good to someone. Father my prayer is that you forgive us for all the times we have disobeyed this recommendation you gave us “It is more blessed to give than to receive”. Help us to realize the different graces you have given to us in order for us to stop complaining but on the contrary be thankful towards you. Father we no longer want to look back on what we have given but we want to give offerings that touch your heart, sacrifices that are costly to us. We know that it is not easy but as you have enlightened us, you will give us the capacity to obey your word. Fill our hearts more and more with your love so that we can give you all we have which is dear to us without constraints nor murmuring. Is in the Name YEHOUSHUA HA MASHIAH (JESUS THE CHRIST), that we have prayed to you! AMEN! AMEN!

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