

RANDOM THOUGHTS

By
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Have you ever wondered what would happen if you were to suddenly, with full faith and trust in God, decide to give, significantly, of yourself and your resources to others, and stop focusing so much on yourself? Would it make a difference in your life?

The apostle Paul writes: "Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not {just} please ourselves" (Rom 15:1, NAS).

In Romans chapters 14 and 15, Paul presents a beautiful picture of how the loving Christian is to treat his neighbor. He teaches us to look out for our neighbor's good to his edification (v15:2). Our purpose in life should not be to just please ourselves but to help our neighbors grow in faith. But so often we are so concerned about self and the negatives we encounter in our own lives that our faith weakens. Then we complain to God about our situation. But at these times, there is a way out. We should boldly seek to help our neighbors who are less fortunate than we are. Giving of yourself to others can rejuvenate you physically, emotionally, and spiritually. When you step out on faith, leaving your personal problems to God and trusting God to take care of your needs and to lead you to meet the needs of others, a magnificent renewal occurs. Suddenly, life is exciting, self worth blossoms, and the future looks brighter. Let's see what the book of James has to say about faith and acts of love.

"What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works [acts of love]? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for {their} body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, {being} by itself" (James 2:14-17, NAS). Picture a person you know whose faith is dead. What is their attitude? What is their outlook on life?

Love makes us come alive. True love acts, contributes, but most of all it gives. The more we contribute and the more we give, the greater the joy we see in others. And it is this joy that brings us fulfillment. Faith without works does no good; there is no profit in such faith. But if we act on our faith, everybody gains. But the surprise in this is that the giver, often times, is the one who gains the most.

In the book of Matthew, we find these words on giving and receiving:

"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me {something} to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me'" (Matt 25:34-36, NAS).

There it is, a double blessing! Don't you see it? First you are blessed right here on earth because your giving reinvigorates you, giving you a brighter outlook, filling you with joy. Then, in heaven, you receive an everlasting reward an inheritance prepared for you by God! Isn't God wonderful?

Does it really work? You'll never know if you never try it. Trust God for His word is true.