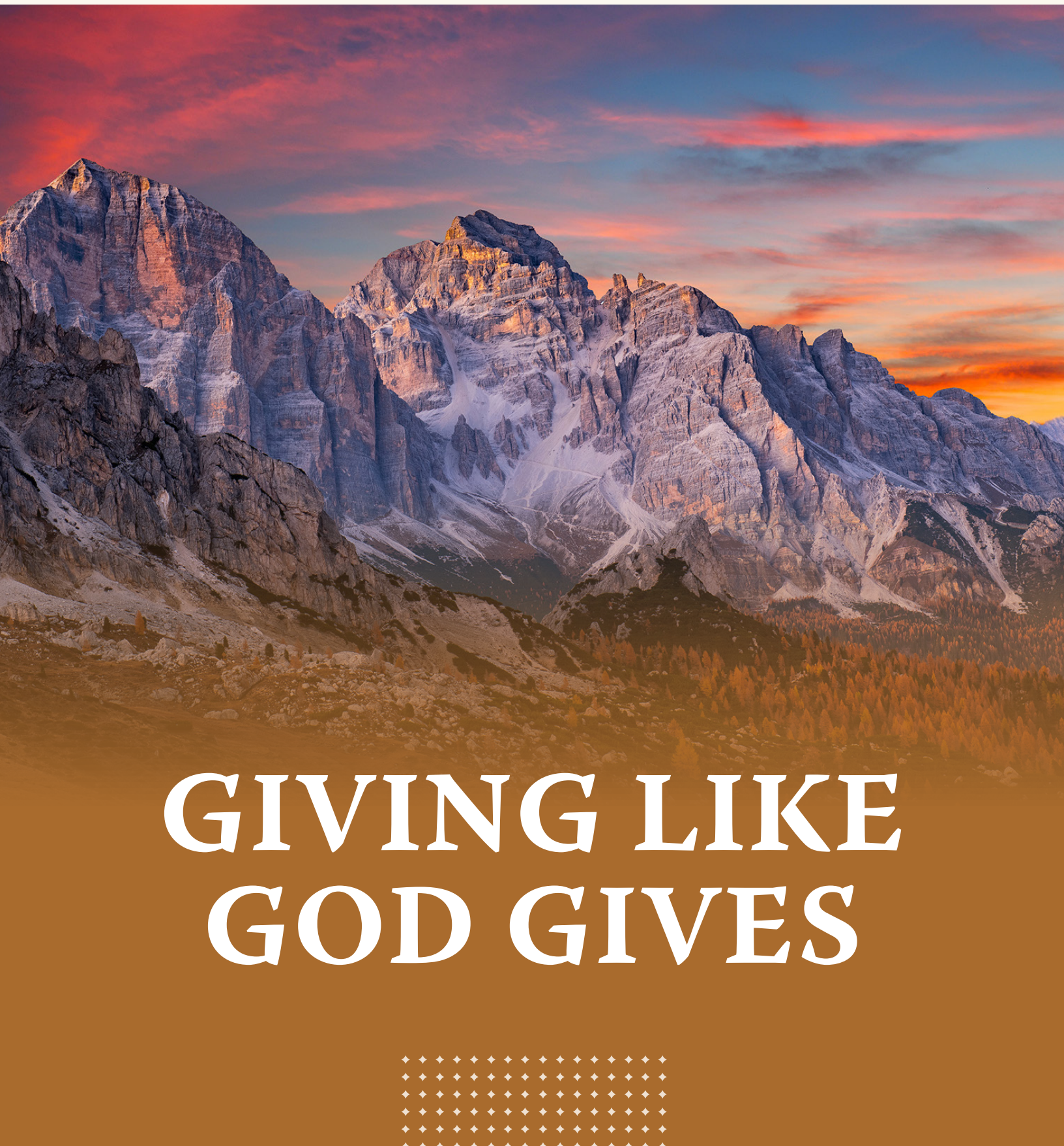




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**GIVING LIKE
GOD GIVES**



GIVING LIKE GOD GIVES



Text: Various

Introduction:

- God is the infinitely perfect Giver.
- Because giving is inherent in God's character, when we give, we identify with Him, and we reflect His likeness.
- Everything of true value is given by God.
- God has given us life itself—physical life in the blood that courses through our human bodies and spiritual life in the blood of His one and only Son, Jesus Christ.
- There is no worthier goal than to give like God gives.
- If we search the Scriptures, we discover the ways in which God gives, and we see the importance of following His pattern.

1. God Gives Lovingly

- a. "God is love," says 1 John 4:16, so it follows that God gives lovingly.
- b. As the well-known verse reminds us: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16)
- c. Just as God has given good gifts to us, He desires us to lovingly give good gifts to others. (Matthew 7:9-11)

2. God Gives Freely

- a. The gifts of God are gifts indeed, granted freely and without strings attached.
- b. Jesus instructed the Twelve, "Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8). His admonition holds for us as disciples today.

3. God Gives Constantly

- a. The most familiar phrase in The Lord's Prayer is a simple verse which says "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11). It is a reminder that God gives to us constantly. He is our unceasing provider
- b. For the believer, giving is not just for special occasions. It's a constant priority for one who strives to give like God gives.

4. God Gives Compassionately

- a. Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus gave help and healing to the poor, the diseased and the needy.
- b. God is pleased when we do what Jesus did, giving compassionately to those who are less fortunate.

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An excellent example of this fact is recorded in Acts 10, in the account of the Roman centurion, Cornelius. The Bible says that “he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.” In a vision from God, an angel told him, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering to God.” (Acts 10:4)

5. God Gives Sacrificially

- a. Jesus set the ultimate example of sacrificial giving. As Mark’s gospel declares: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)
- b. Nothing is more meaningful than true sacrifice, for nothing makes a stronger statement of one’s Christlikeness.
- c. Giving sacrificially means giving out of one’s need, not one’s abundance.

6. God Gives Graciously

- a. The Apostle Paul asks a potent question: “He who did not spare His own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32)
- b. Indeed, God does give to us graciously, and when we give graciously to others, we honor Him.
- c. Graceful giving is giving that draws no attention to itself but directs all attention to God.

7. God Gives Willingly

- a. God is not coerced into doing what He does. He is all -supreme, all-powerful , all-knowing. He chooses to do whatever He does.
- b. We, too, choose to do whatever we do. However, there’s a big distinction: our will is to be subject to God’s will, and our willingness should reflect His willingness.
- c. God loves a cheerful giver - one who is happily willing and delightfully devoted to God’s purposes above everything else.

Conclusion:

- Look to God’s example and follow it. Learn from God’s Word and do it.
- Remember: It is not only possible, it is imperative to give like God gives.