

## INTRODUCTION

This book will give you a better understanding of how to give, how to walk with the Lord and how to live for Him. It will also tell you a few of my stories and experiences as I have learned to put others ahead of ME.

We get so caught up with what we want, or what we think we should do for God that we miss the simple scriptures that He gives us.

We make up our own ideas of what and how a Christian should be like and also make excuses why we can't give.

Take a few minutes after each scripture and just meditate on it, think of what God is really telling us what to do.

Your life will change if you start to live like Jesus intended us too.

# GIVING

I wanted to write a book on Giving. Yes, I know the title sounds different maybe than any other book you may have read but to me it means a great deal. You see I have been in Ministry for approximately 20 years writing prisoners with the organization I founded called Prison Letters and then 13 years with Hannah House which has given clothing and food and many other items to help those in need.

I have noticed throughout the years that many people look on GIVING in different ways. In fact just recently I was a little shocked to hear some talk of giving in a negative way and that how people should be charged a fee if they are in need of clothing or food. Wow, I was truly shocked at what I heard and so therefore decided to put this book together on what the Bible has to say about GIVING.

Giving should really come from our heart and I think the best way someone knows how to give from their heart is if they have experienced the many needs that come from not having money, not having food or clothing to wear and maybe having a family to take care of and just can't find work. No I am not sticking up for those who could work and have turned down jobs because they feel they deserve something better, I am talking about those in need.

So many people that I have dealt with over the years have had addictions that have put them in a situation of real need. Many say that they should just go to rehab and then start over again but many are not capable to do that. See, life can be hard and many have turned to drugs and alcohol because of their situations or maybe the hurts that they have experienced in life. I know many who have just given up because of a loss of a loved one, so who are we to judge. The Bible makes it pretty clear about judging too and that is probably best kept for another book. Right now I want to talk about GIVING.

I remember walking down an alley one night, see I used to love walking alleys, you just never knew who you would bump into or what you would find. I guess these days it may be a bit more dangerous than a few years ago and honestly have been quite busy so really haven't had the time to go for a walk.

Well, this one night I saw this young girl walking towards me, now it was real cold out and the snow was coming down. As I got a little closer to her I noticed she only had a sweater on, my heart instantly went out to her. She asked me if I had an extra coat. The coat I was wearing was one of my leather coats and it had cost me \$400.00 but deep inside of me my heart ached for this girl. I took off my coat and gave it to her, it fit her perfectly and she thanked me so much. I went home knowing I had many more coats that would keep me warm and I felt pretty good that I was able to help this girl out. A few nights later I was walking down the same alley and here comes this girl again. Yes you guessed it, she was wearing a sweater again. Well, I am known to be very blunt so I asked her where my coat was that I had given her a few nights before, she answered with her head hanging low that she had went into this abandoned house to sleep and someone stole the coat. I knew she was lying to me and that night taught me a great lesson. We are to give but we are to use wisdom in giving. My coat was sold for crack the same night that I helped her put it on because she was a crack head. This poor girl didn't need my coat as much as she needed a hit on the pipe and here was I enabling her to do just that. Wisdom is very important when you are helping out others and I learned that lesson quickly. Now that was at the beginning of my ministry and down through the years I have learned a lot more things that have helped me understand the street people. Knowledge though doesn't change what the Bible says about GIVING... I have noted a lot of scriptures that will be helpful for you to read and study. If we really love the Lord then we are to follow in His Footsteps in every area of life. Giving is just one part of it.

I found that many are in need and if we have the means to help them than it is our responsibility to help.

Years ago I was in a bad relationship and to get away I took off in my car to this large City. I slept in the car in the middle of winter for a few nights, see I only had 35 cents on me and the car had run out of gas. Now with 35 cents you certainly couldn't buy a meal or a coffee even so here I was real hungry and cold too as the car was a convertible and the back window was broken so I had hung a blanket best that I could over it but the wind still blew in on me as I tried to sleep. After a few days I was walking up the street and happened to see a sign that said "Coffee 35 cents today" it was a special and I wanted a coffee... I went into the store and sat down, it was good to sit somewhere warm but I was so hungry too. The waitress came and asked what I wanted, I told her a coffee and she said that the special was a bowl of oatmeal for 35 cents too. I don't know what the specials were all about that day but I knew that I better get the oatmeal instead of the coffee as it would give me some energy that I so badly needed. The oatmeal tasted great and I walked out of there with only the smell of that good cup of coffee that I couldn't afford. Now you may say that I could have done things different in my life and yes you may be right but at that time of my life I had got involved with a man who started to beat me and the only way I could see out was to move to another town. Now I hear you say well what has this got to do with GIIVNG? It has a lot cause each person has a story to tell and that was one of my stories, see I had nothing at that time of my life and I needed help. A few days after my oatmeal I did find a Christian coffee house that gave out free coffee and donuts and it sure was nice sitting in a warm place drinking a coffee and eating as many donuts as I wanted, which were quite a few too.

People are in need and many of them are in situations that are not their fault so we must help them all we can. If we have accepted Jesus into our hearts it is our responsibility to walk as Jesus walked and do whatever we can to help if we have the means to do so.

Looking back today I often think about those days when I lived a different lifestyle than what I do now and am so grateful for those who were there to help me when I needed it the most. You can be that type of person too that will reach out and help someone in need.

Luke 6:38

38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Look what this scripture says... GIVE ... and it will be given back to you and even running over.. so in other words what we give will be given back to us and if we don't give .... Wow I wonder.

Matthew 10:8

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Here is another scripture that I like, a lot of things are required of us and then at the end it says that **FREELY WE HAVE RECEIVED**, so **FREELY GIVE**... do we give freely? Not many do.

Matthew 25 : 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

I really love those scriptures and often have mentioned them to others as well as myself when I have seen someone in need. Do you know that when you give to someone you are giving to the LORD HIMSELF? Don't you see it that way, I do. When we see a beggar asking for a sandwich, this scripture tells me that IF I give him a sandwich it is just like I have given it to JESUS... wow, that sure makes me think a little more about what and who I do things for. I remember once about a week after I was delivered from drugs.. Yes I was a drug addict myself at one time before I came to the Lord . Well, I was standing looking out a window of this store where I was helping out and a man across the street was staggering up the road, he was dirty, his hair was all tangled and matted and he just looked so ragged and a mess. I was standing with this person and I casually said "EWW Look at that man, he looks terrible" and in my heart I was really looking down on him and then I heard that still small voice inside of me say "Anne, there goes you if it were not for my grace". Well, I stopped dead in my tracks and asked the Lord to forgive me, see that person was me over there but the only difference was that I had found JESUS as my Lord and Savior and this poor soul was still hooked on drugs and alcohol. I am so thankful that God does forgive us and did forgive me that day. How could I so quickly judge another human being when just a few weeks before I was in that same position. I that really is the problem, we forget so quickly what and where we could be if it was not for the Lord.

Proverbs 22:9

He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

When we see the poor we are to GIVE. Not hold back and judge them but help them.

Matthew 19:21

Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

Here is a good scripture, If we want to be perfect? Well most of us do and some even think they already are but, here is what we are to do. SELL what you have and give to the poor.. This life is soon going to be over and what really counts is our eternal home “Heaven” right? So it sure is pretty clear to me that if we want to follow Christ we got to GIVE.

1 Corinthians 13:3

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Now this is a good scripture too. We can do all the giving we want but if it is done in the wrong frame of mind or the wrong heart it is going to mean nothing. We have to have LOVE. Wow, that is pretty clear too. How many have given away things and really wished that they had kept them? Ok, keep it real I bet you have done that I know I have but, here it is pretty plain what we are supposed to do. Now if you don't have love for your brothers and sisters I know how to get it. PRAY and ask God to give it to you, ask for HIS LOVE for others and you will get it if you really mean that prayer.

1Sam. 2:8 He lifts the poor from the dust-- Yes, from a pile of ashes-- And treats them as princes sitting in the seats of honor. For all the earth is the Lord's And he has set the world in order.

God loves the poor and after all it is His earth and He has set the world in order. So let's not say too much about the poor, it could be dangerous for us.

Prov. 19:17 When you help the poor you are lending to the Lord--and he pays wonderful interest on your loan!

This scripture has always stuck out to me many times. Just think if you help the poor you are actually lending to the LORD, WOW, that is amazing and read on .. HE pays interest on what we GIVE? Are you serious? How can we not GIVE.

1 John 3:17 But if someone who is supposed to be a Christian has money enough to live well, and sees a brother in need, and won't help him--how can God's love be within him ?

Now this scripture is amazing to me, if we have lots of money, claim to be a Christian and see our brother in need and won't help him, we sure don't have God's LOVE at all. Scarey thought isn't it?

1 John 3:18 Little children, let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions.

When I read this scripture it always amazes me because I think of so many who only talk about loving people. The Bible makes it real clear that if we really love people we show them by our actions that we do. Think about your actions, and what you have done lately to show someone how much you love them. What have you done for others.. Now, I am taking a look at myself too so don't think I am pointing the finger because I am not. I know there has been many times I could have reached out to others a little more. Let's try to do something good for someone each day that will enrich their lives a little more, maybe just a smile as someone walks past you in a store. That smile may give them encouragement for a better tomorrow.

1 John 3:19 Then we will know for sure, by our actions, that we are on God's side, and our consciences will be clear, even when we stand before the Lord.

Our actions are very important and what we do will determine who we serve. I know serving the Lord is all about love for others and of course not serving the Lord is total opposite.

Prov. 14:31 Anyone who oppresses the poor is insulting God who made them. To help the poor is to honor God.

Did you know that helping the poor is honoring GOD? Wow, that is a big one and this is such a simple thing to do. If you see someone in need and you have the means to help them it is time to do so. Honoring God is really what it is all about especially when He did so much for us.

James 1:27 The Christian who is pure and without fault, from God the Father's point of view, is the one who takes care of orphans and widows, and who remains true to the Lord--not soiled and dirtied by his contacts with the world.

I remember years ago I looked after my grandmother from the age of 90 to 96 years at that time I also had a little girl age 13 years who had lost her mother to suicide and never knew her dad. Life was hard at times because granny was just like a child herself. She had been put in a seniors home and kept running away and they called me and said they could no longer keep her. I knew my mom and dad were not able so I took her in, those years sure kept me busy and one day I just wanted to give up. The little girl was doing some crazy things and so was granny. I remember grabbing my Bible and sitting on the couch crying and telling the Lord that I just could not do it anymore. I opened the Bible and I got this scripture in James 1:27. I realized that the Lord was reminding me that I had a job to do and I knew He would give me the strength to do it. What a mighty God we serve.

Psa. 82:3 Give fair judgment to the poor man, the afflicted, the fatherless, the destitute.

Psa 82:4 Rescue the poor and helpless from the grasp of evil men.

Here we read to be fair, that covers a lot of territory because at times we tend to forget about the poor man and look to those who have better clothing and act in a different way but we are told to be fair to all. We are also told to rescue the poor and helpless from evil men, that too is pretty clear and we should always take time out of our schedule to make sure that we are doing what God has told us to do.

Prov. 21:13 He who shuts his ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in his own time of need.

Now I sure don't want to be ignored when I have a need but in Proverbs it tells us that if we do not listen to the cries of the poor this will definitely happen to us.

Prov. 28:27 If you give to the poor, your needs will be supplied! But a curse upon those who close their eyes to poverty.

This scripture too makes me see how important it is to give, because if we do our own needs will be met and I know many of us have needs that need to be met. Yikes a curse will come upon us if we close our eyes to poverty. How many have seen a need and just ignored it? Well from now on it is a good idea not too, curses are just not what we are needing in our life.

Prov. 22:9 Happy is the generous man, the one who feeds the poor.

We are all looking for happiness right? Here is the answer if we are generous and we feed the poor. Now many will say that they can't do that but you can make a bag lunch and take it to some people in need or what about a bag of groceries to your neighbor who has just lost their job and you know that it would help. There are many ways to feed the hungry.

1 Tim. 6:17 Tell those who are rich not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone, but their pride and trust should be in the living God who always richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.

Many are rich these days and don't want to part with their riches, pride of course seems to follow us when we get a few dollars in the bank. Many tend to think they have it made and their heads swell a little too much. We are to trust in God and not in riches, all that will pass away one day.

1 Tim. 6:18 Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them.

Do you share what you have? Reading this I think it is a good idea. Some lend things and yet we should never expect anything back in return for helping people.. Always be willing to give freely.

1 Tim. 6:19 By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven--it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well.

I know I want to live a fruitful Christian life don't you ? Well when we help others we are storing real treasure up in heaven. Now, we shouldn't be helping just for that reason and remember God does look at our heart and why we do things but it is a good and safe investment.

Eph 2:10 It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.

God is good and here this scripture tells us that He made us, and given us a new life because of Jesus Christ, it is also mentioned that our lives should be spent helping others.

James 2:14 Dear brothers, what's the use of saying that you have faith and are Christians if you aren't proving it by helping others? Will that kind of faith save anyone?

So many say they have all this faith and tell how they are living right before God but really don't show too much by their actions. I remember when I was about 12 years old, our family was poor and one day at church we had this big social event. There was all kinds of sandwiches, salads, cakes and cookies, what a spread was laid out before us. Well, afterwards the Pastor's wife came up to mom and asked if we would like to take some of the food home with us. I was so excited because it was food that we never got to eat at home due to our lack of money. Mom said that she would love to take some home and we went downstairs to the Pastor's apartment to get our bag of sandwiches. I stood at the door that day waiting to receive this great prize and excited too about it all, then all of a sudden the Pastor's two daughters opened their mouths and started to question why we were being given the food as they could use it in their lunches the following week. I stood there with all the joy totally drained out of me and wanting to walk away after telling them what I thought but mom just stood there very humble with a smile on her face. The Pastor's wife bundled up the sandwiches and handed mom this little bag, mom said thank you and we walked away. I remember saying to mom that I felt so terrible because of what had been said and she just smiled and said that we needed it and not to let it bother me. I never forgot that day though and the feeling it gave me

and I vowed that I would never put anyone in that position that I had been in. Needing food and yet feeling so terrible by taking it. We always must think of others and their feelings. Many have no choice regarding their situations and we have to humble ourselves and reach out in love to them, thanking God that if it wasn't for His grace that would be us too, in need of food.

James 2:15 If you have a friend who is in need of food and clothing,

James 2:16 and you say to him, "Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat hearty," and then don't give him clothes or food, what good does that do?

James 2:17 So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. You must also do good to prove that you have it. Faith that doesn't show itself by good works is no faith at all--it is dead and useless.

Faith is good to have for sure, and many have a lot of faith when it comes to certain things but I always think of that Scripture in 1 Corinthians, chapter 13 that says "If we don't have LOVE, we can have plenty of other things but it won't matter. Faith is important but our actions must show that we really love the Lord, does your actions show others how much you love the Lord and love others? What can you do to change your lifestyle? You may go to church every Sunday and praise God and cry and give a great testimony but if you are not giving to others and showing your love then you might as well stay in bed on Sunday mornings and not even bother going to church.

James 2:18 But someone may well argue, "You say the way to God is by faith alone, plus nothing; well, I say that good works are important too, for without good works you can't prove whether you have faith or not; but anyone can see that I have faith by the way I act."

James 2:19 Are there still some among you who hold that "only believing" is enough? Believing in one God? Well, remember that the demons believe this too--so strongly that they tremble in terror!

James 2:20 Fool! When will you ever learn that "believing" is useless without doing what God wants you to? Faith that does not result in good deeds is not real faith.

James 2:21 Don't you remember that even our father Abraham was declared good because of what he did when he was willing to obey God, even if it meant offering his son Isaac to die on the altar?

James 2:22 You see, he was trusting God so much that he was willing to do whatever God told him to; his faith was made complete by what he did--by his actions, his good deeds.

James 2:23 And so it happened just as the Scriptures say, that Abraham trusted God, and the Lord declared him good in God's sight, and he was even called "the friend of God."

James 2:24 So you see, a man is saved by what he does, as well as by what he believes.

James pretty much makes it clear here by the words that are written, how do we act? We may believe but does our life show our beliefs? Think about this and if you have to make changes, it will not only benefit others but you will benefit also.

Mat. 25:34 "Then I, the King, shall say to those at my right, 'Come, blessed of my Father, into the Kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world.

Mat. 25:35 For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me water; I was a stranger and you invited me into your homes;

Mat. 25:36 naked and you clothed me; sick and in prison, and you visited me.'

Mat. 25:37 "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Sir, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you anything to drink?

Mat. 25:38 Or a stranger, and help you? Or naked, and clothe you?

Mat. 25:39 When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?'

Mat. 25:40 "And I, the King, will tell them, 'When you did it to these my brothers you were doing it to me!'

Mat. 25:41 Then I will turn to those on my left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.

Mat. 25:42 For I was hungry and you wouldn't feed me; thirsty, and you wouldn't give me anything to drink;

Mat 25:43 a stranger, and you refused me hospitality; naked, and you wouldn't clothe me; sick, and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

Mat. 25:44 "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?'

Mat 25:45 "And I will answer, 'When you refused to help the least of these my brothers, you were refusing help to me.'

Mat. 25:46 "And they shall go away into eternal punishment; but the righteous into everlasting life."

I love these scriptures in Matthew, it sure sums it up pretty much doesn't it? Last night we had church and this man came in, now he sure wasn't dressed nice and he smelled a little too. I asked him to sit with me and as he sat there and I could smell him my mind went back to these scriptures. I was sitting beside Jesus last night in church and what an honor. Read these over and over and see what you can do to reach out to someone.. It might just be mailing a card to a prisoner or visiting someone who is sick in the hospital. Everything we do is done to the Lord, we are serving HIM.

Luke 3:9 The axe of his judgment is poised over you, ready to sever your roots and cut you down. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire."

Luke 3:10 The crowd replied, "What do you want us to do?"

Luke 3:11 "If you have two coats," he replied, "give one to the poor. If you have extra food, give it away to those who are hungry."

Luke here explains how important it is to give.

Luke 6:38 For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give--large or small--will be used to measure what is given back to you."

Giving is just not only going to benefit the person that receives but will benefit us too, what a joy to know that God when He sees us give will bless us for doing what He tells us to do. Many of us have forgotten this and myself included.

Lev. 19:18 Don't seek vengeance. Don't bear a grudge; but love your neighbor as yourself, for I am Jehovah.

Loving your neighbor can be hard at times as we always think of ourselves don't we, we make excuses for our actions and feel so justified when we want to seek revenge but God once again tells us how to treat our neighbor. LOVE them.

Mat. 22:39 The second most important is similar: 'Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.'

Can you love your neighbor as yourself? Work on it until you get it down to perfection. It can be done, we just have to put ourselves on a back burner.

Mat. 5:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy.

Our neighbor could be anyone and we are asked to love them. There was an old man years ago named "Jimmy" he had been a dancer and at one time had his own dance studio. He was a little guy and every time I saw him she would do a dance for me. He was homeless and one day he asked if he could sleep in my car. I always parked on the street and in the city I lived at there were no shelters at all. I told Jimmy that I would be home by 11 p.m. every night but that he had to be gone by 8 a.m. in the morning. I put out a blanket and pillow for him. He kept the car clean and always told me how much he appreciated living there. One night I was planning on going away and wouldn't be home until after 1 a.m. I hunted the streets for Jimmy and

found him down by the canal. I told him that he wouldn't be able to sleep in the car until after 1 a.m. that night. Well, he got upset and told me his bedtime was 11 p.m. Needless to say Jimmy had to move out of my car that night and find some other place to live.

Mat. 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Mat. 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Once again we read some real good stuff, LOVE your enemies? Not that is sure a challenge isn't it, but it can be done. When we really see where the problem lies, satan is out to get to us in every way that he can. He works through people to hurt us, kill us, steal from us and destroy us. When we look at things in this light we can love our neighbor. If you have something against anyone go before the Lord and ask Him to give you HIS love for that person, ask the Lord to let you see that person through God's eyes. Your life will start to change and real joy will come.

Mark 12:31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

(KING JAMES VERSION) Mark 12:33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Rom. 13:9 If you love your neighbor as much as you love yourself you will not want to harm or cheat him, or kill him or steal from him. And you won't sin with his wife or want what is his, or do anything else the Ten Commandments say is wrong. All ten are wrapped up in this one, to love your neighbor as you love yourself.

Gal. 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

James 2:8 Yes indeed, it is good when you truly obey our Lord's command, "You must love and help your neighbors just as much as you love and take care of yourself."

Luke 12:30 All mankind scratches for its daily bread, but your heavenly Father knows your needs.

Luke 12:31 He will always give you all you need from day to day if you will make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

Luke 12:32 "So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.

Luke 12:33 Sell what you have and give to those in need. This will fatten your purses in heaven! And the purses of heaven have no rips or holes in them. Your treasures there will never disappear; no thief can steal them; no moth can destroy them.

Luke 12:34 Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be.

Where is your treasure today? Many have their treasures in material things and yet it isn't going to last. When you attend a funeral and see that casket going by, there sure isn't much room for all your material things to go with you now is there.

Luke 10:27 "It says," he replied, "that you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind. And you must love your neighbor just as much as you love yourself.

Luke 10:28 "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you shall live!"

Luke 10:29 The man wanted to justify (his lack of love for some kinds of people), so he asked, "Which neighbors?"

Luke 10:30 Jesus replied with an illustration: "A Jew going on a trip from Jerusalem to Jericho was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his

clothes and money, and beat him up and left him lying half dead beside the road.

Luke 10:31 "By chance a Jewish priest came along; and when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by.

Luke 10:32 A Jewish Temple-assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but then went on. Luke 10:33 "But a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw him, he felt deep pity.

Luke 10:34 Kneeling beside him the Samaritan soothed his wounds with medicine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his donkey and walked along beside him till they came to an inn, where he nursed him through the night.

Luke 10:35 The next day he handed the innkeeper two twenty-dollar bills and told him to take care of the man. 'If his bill runs higher than that,' he said, 'I'll pay the difference the next time I am here.'

Luke 10:36 "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the bandits' victim?"

Luke 10:37 The man replied, "The one who showed him some pity." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."

Jesus tells us to DO THE SAME... Are you at that place to do the same?

2 Cor. 9:7 Everyone must make up his own mind as to how much he should give. Don't force anyone to give more than he really wants to, for cheerful givers are the ones God prizes.

2 Cor. 9:8 God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more so that there will not only be enough for your own needs but plenty left over to give joyfully to others.

2 Cor. 9:9 It is as the Scriptures say: "The godly man gives generously to the poor. His good deeds will be an honor to him forever."

2 Cor. 9:10 For God, who gives seed to the farmer to plant, and later on good crops to harvest and eat, will give you more and more seed to plant and will make it grow so that you can give away more and more fruit from your harvest.

2 Cor. 9:11 Yes, God will give you much so that you can give away much, and when we take your gifts to those who need them they will break out into thanksgiving and praise to God for your help.

2 Cor. 9:12 So two good things happen as a result of your gifts--those in need are helped, and they overflow with thanks to God.

People when they get a blessing from us will reach out to the Lord and give thanks, I have seen it happen.

2 Cor 9:13 Those you help will be glad not only because of your generous gifts to themselves and to others, but they will praise God for this proof that your deeds are as good as your doctrine.

2 Cor. 9:14 And they will pray for you with deep fervor and feeling because of the wonderful grace of God shown through you.

Many have said they would pray for Hannah House because of what they have received and I know they do because Hannah House is constantly blessed.

2 Cor. 9:15 Thank God for his Son--his Gift too wonderful for words.

This book that you are reading is giving you scripture after scripture on how good God is to us and how we are supposed to take that same lifestyle and share it with others. How have you been living? Are you doing what the Bible tells us to do? Are you doing it with a happy heart? Do you wish that you could keep things just for yourself instead of sharing it? Many people I know are so full of themselves that I don't even like to be around them. I remember a long time ago having a friend and she married this man. They fell madly in love and had a real nice place to live, but it got that every time they bought something new they called me up to come over for a coffee. At first I really thought that they wanted to visit with me but I soon realized that they wanted me over to see what they had purchased. It

actually started to get funny to me cause when the phone rang and I saw it was their number I would say "Well, ..... and .... Must have got something new to show me and sure enough they had. After a time though I stopped going over I just honestly couldn't take it any more.. all their bragging about how much they spent and what a great deal they got. Selfishness is not good and it grows inside of you... Better to do what the Bible says and live for God.. His rewards a greater... remember now Peace, Joy, Love and more all come from giving.

Isa. 58:6 "No, the kind of fast I want is that you stop oppressing those who work for you and treat them fairly and give them what they earn.

Isa. 58:7 I want you to share your food with the hungry and bring right into your own homes those who are helpless, poor, and destitute. Clothe those who are cold, and don't hide from relatives who need your help.

Isa. 58:8 "If you do these things, God will shed his own glorious light upon you. He will heal you; your godliness will lead you forward, goodness will be a shield before you, and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind.

Isa. 58:9 Then, when you call, the Lord will answer. 'Yes, I am here,' he will quickly reply. All you need to do is to stop oppressing the weak and stop making false accusations and spreading vicious rumors!

I want nothing more than to have God shed His light on me, I need God in my life because I know what it is like not to have Him and it is terrible. There are so many promises that He gives us if we obey Him. I get excited when I think of them.

Isa. 58:10 "Feed the hungry! Help those in trouble! Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you shall be as bright as day.

Just think, if we feed the hungry our light with shine. What a joy and what a blessing. God has our back in so many ways all we have to do is follow His commandments and live the way He wants us too.

Isa. 58:11 And the Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy you with all good things, and keep you healthy too; and you will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring.

Isaiah is sure clear on how we are to treat people. Now you may say this is ridiculous and why should I do this? Well, we are given the Bible to help us live like Jesus lived. It is clear how we are supposed to be when we call ourselves "CHRISTIAN". Stop for a moment and think about this, when we do what the Bible says to do, like helping others do you think that is only for their benefit? Right, it is for our benefit also. We start to feel love inside of us along with joy and peace. Life becomes more meaningful too. Try it and see what happens. I know you will never go back to living for yourself anymore.

## FEED EVEN YOUR ENEMIES...

Proverbs 25:21-22

21 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:

Romans 12:20

Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him: if he thirst, give him drink. For in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

We see in Proverbs and Romans that even if our enemies are hungry and thirsty we are to help them. Now that is sure saying a lot isn't it.. It is easy to feel those we love but OUR ENEMIES? WOW... but that is what the Bible tells us to do.

A long time ago I was in my early teens and I remember about six old men who were homeless, my heart went out to them and I used to go home and make a whole loaf of sandwiches for them. I knew they always went down to the canal to sit and drink their rubbing alcohol and of course they all knew me. ☺ I would go down there every Saturday and sit with them, making sure they would eat. We would laugh and talk about so much, they loved to tell stories of when they were young. These poor men had given up on so many things and had been hurt so much that they ended up alcoholics. I remember one of them “Whitie” he was called, he had a wooden leg. One day he said his leg was sore and he started to unscrew his leg. I was shocked of course as I thought it was his real leg, can you imagine his foot turning as he started to unscrew from the knee. I am not sure what kind of a wooden leg it was, but he could take it all apart. One day he asked if I could give him a ride home, now I didn’t know he was homeless and he said he lived out in the country and he wanted to give me something. I told him to get into my car and I would take him home. As we came up to this beautiful farm house with a great big barn I was totally impressed, then he told me not to pull up front but to slow down and sit at the side of the road and wait for him.. Well can you see this picture of this old man, wooden leg and all jumping a fence and running into the barn, then coming back, hopping the fence again and coming to my car. He handed me this old umbrella and said “Thank You Anne” that day I was totally blessed. I asked him why he had jumped the fence and he said that he lived in the barn and the people who owned the house didn’t know about him. What a sweet man he was, he showed so much love that I don’t often see in some people.

Now remember that giving is what this book is all about and I have given you many scriptures that will help you understand why we are to give. I also believe that Wisdom is to be used in every situation that you deal with. Like I said at the front of this book when I spoke of me giving my leather coat away, we must use wisdom in all things. I have learned so much these years in Ministry and I am so grateful that I have.

One day I had three children who were not mine, only in my care. All I had was kraft dinner and hot dogs for supper, which really is quite a good meal.

I had Hannah House and our pantry was dry, it just seemed that all the food was gone and even my own food was gone, but we had kraft dinner and hot dogs..:)

I told the children that I would go cook the dinner and all of a sudden the door bell went. I walked to the door and the kids came with me. Here stood a lady who I knew, she had five kids and there she stood asking me if I had anything for supper as she had nothing and her food stamps weren't ready until the next day. Honestly I stood there wondering what to do. I realized that if I gave her the hot dogs for her kids we would still be ok with the kraft dinner, so I gave her the hot dogs. I mentioned to my kids what I was going to do and they said that it would be just fine. I remember wondering if I really had done the right thing and yet in my heart I knew that I had. I explained to the kids how we are to give and that God would give back.

I went to close the door and a car pulled up. Now this lady was just walking up the street too with the hot dogs. I figured it was a donation of clothing so I said to the kids to help me bring in the clothes and then I would cook their supper. God is so good and as we went out to the car, this lady opened up her trunk and started to give each child bags of groceries. We carried all the groceries in and this lady said to me... "Anne, these groceries are for you and the kids, don't give them to anyone". I smiled and said I would keep them just for us. The lady handed each child two bags and said that she had got their favorite cereal, cookies etc. You should have seen the smiles on the kids faces it was priceless. After the lady left I counted the bags, there were 25 bags of groceries. I told the kids how God saw us give away half of our supper to help feed others and He supplied us with a whole lot more. God is good and His word is true, what He did that day I will never forget. What an awesome God we serve.

Another time I had advertised for a Street BBQ of hotdogs and hamburgers. Well I had a whole month to be able to collect the food and yet that month nothing came in to Hannah House. The night before the BBQ for the street people I was closing up and then I lived in the back of Hannah House so I was ready to go back there and relax. As I was going through the door to

my apartment I heard a knock on the Hannah House door. I went back and here stood a man nicely dressed and he said he had heard I was having a BBQ the next day. I told him yes and he handed me a \$100 dollar bill. He said this would pay for what I needed. I asked him his name but he bluntly told me it didn't matter and walked away. What rejoicing went on as I shut the door, I was so excited and thanked God so much for what HE had done. Now I could feed the people the next day. It was about half an hour later when there was another knock at the door. I went through and here stood this man again with a large box in his hands. He proceeded to tell me that when he left, he started to think that I probably could use the money for bills and he went and bought enough hot dogs and hamburgers to feed 100 people. He also had got ketchup, mustard and coffee... WOW, was it good and I thanked him again. He never gave me his name and I knew that God had sent him. My heart was willing but I didn't have anything to give but God saw my heart and made sure that the need was supplied. If we could only trust God a little more in our everyday life, wouldn't that be great?

He promises to supply all our needs and He does.

The next month I decided to do the same thing and guess what, the exact same thing happened the night before the BBQ I had no food. Now I had advertised so much and I thought my faith was real strong but as I closed the door that day to Hannah House I was drained. Then I thought well maybe God knows it will rain tomorrow and I won't need the food. I made it almost back to my apartment door and here the Hannah House door went. A large knock really shook me and I went to see who was knocking so hard. As I opened the door here stood a Chef... well he looked like a Chef anyways. He had this big tall hat and a white jacket on. He had this strange look on his face too. He asked me if I could use some food. I said of course I could not knowing what he was going to donate. He opened up the back of his trunk and here were boxes filled of hamburgers all wrapped individually. He looked at me strangely and told me that he worked at a college nearby and that they had had a special event that day and he was told to make so many sloppy joes, then he went on to say he didn't know what happened but he had made an extra 300 of them. I smiled to myself, see I knew what happened, GOD had intervened.. It was great. I thanked

him so much and laughed as he drove away. I could just picture him wondering how he had made such a big mistake and yet all the time God knew I needed those hamburgers.

The next day I set up tables on the street and wheeled out my microwave, when the homeless came to eat I told them the story and as they sat like they were in New York City eating at a fine restaurant, everyone was happy and full too. I even had so many that they could take some home for a later meal.

We sometimes put God in a box don't we? He is wonderful and as we trust Him and we reach out to others, He reaches out to us.

If you do not know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and are reading this book, I urge you today to give your life to Him. Please say this simple prayer and then get back to me and let me know that you did. We will send you more information regarding the Journey that you are on with our Lord.

Dear Father,

I come to you today, I am a sinner, I ask you to come into my life and wash away all my sin. I want to live for you, I want you to take me and use me for your glory. I give you all of me and I ask Lord that your Holy Spirit teach me and lead me into all truth. I thank you Father for sending your Son, Jesus Christ to die on the cross for my sins and I accept Him today into my life. Teach me Lord your ways and thank you for your Peace that only you can give. In the name of Jesus I pray.... Amen

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