

# GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

**Volume 45, No. 47, November 20, 2018** / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

## **THANKS-giving Unto the LORD!**

(A number of sources used to develop this article)

In this article we will share Scriptures that will give some of God's direction and guidance as to GIVING UNTO THE LORD; and we will share 'GIVING STORIES' of others who in their GIVING unto the LORD provide godly examples for us!

**BELIEVERS have differing beliefs as to TITHING. It is worth noting that** Abraham and Jacob spoke of the tithe centuries before Moses' Law was given. Because the tithe is mentioned from Genesis to Malachi. When the Holy Spirit moved Paul to write, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him"! (1 Cor.16:2)— **REST ASSURED** that is NOT a loop hole to be cheap on giving unto the LORD! **BUT CERTAINLY**, giving UNTO THE LORD involves far more than tithing!

**GIVING UNTO THE LORD, WITH SIMPLICITY!**

The Holy Spirit has Paul to say that giving involves giving "with simplicity" (Rom. 12:8)... Simplicity; with singleness of mind, mental honesty, without pretense! When one gives from such openness of heart, one GIVES freely, generously, with liberality. LIKE or similar to the believers at Macedonia! (2 Cor. 8:1-5)

**GIVING UNTO THE LORD, (either with a sense that one has the gift of giving spoken of in Romans 12... or just plain GIVING unto the LORD)—**

**Regardless:** There is to be no ulterior motive of giving to gain something in return. Nor do we give for public show, as did the Pharisees. The person who will not donate unless his name is inscribed on the stained-glass window or engraved on the cornerstone doesn't understand Christ's command not to let the left hand know what the right hand is doing (Matt. 6:3). GIVING UNTO THE LORD permits no self-seeking.

MOREOVER, THE HOLY SPIRIT WARNS us through the Apostle Paul to give "**not grudgingly, or of necessity**" (2 Cor. 9:7) Rather, we are to give cheerfully, "**for God loveth a cheerful giver.**" FRANKLY, is my giving an insult to God because of its smallness in proportion to capacity to give; and in light of God's generosity to me?

**BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** (2 Corinthians 8:1-5, "Now I want you to know... what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. **2 They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor.** But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that **they gave not only what they could afford, but far more...** **4** They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. **5** They even did more than we had

hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.” (New Living Translation- 2 Cor. 8:1-5)

## **MODERN-DAY EXAMPLE**

In the early years of his business, R. G. LeTourneau went into partnership with God. By this he did not lower grace to the level of a bargain. Rather he said, "Because I believe that God wants businessmen as well as preachers to be His servants, I believe that a factory can be dedicated to His service as well as a church." In 1935 he irrevocably assigned over **90 percent of the company's profits** to the LeTourneau Foundation, described as a "not-for-profit corporation whose income and capital can be used only for the cause of Christ". (Moving Heaven and Earth, Donald Ackland, Iversen-Ford Associates, New York).

**LeTourneau said:** “I have never been much of a preacher of tithing. My Life Verse has been Matthew 6:33, “Give first place to the kingdom of God and what He requires, and He will provide you with all these other things.” .... “We should serve God because we love, not because we are making a bargain with Him.... I often say, if you love the LORD you will serve Him and if you are not serving Him it proves you don’t love Him and if you don’t love Him it proves you don’t know him. **MY MOTTO has been— not how much of my money do I give unto the LORD but how much of God’s money do I Keep for Myself.**”

**LeTourneau also said:** “If under the law the people of God gave one-tenth to the LORD, shame on us, living under grace, if we don’t do better. ***The tithe may be a place to begin if you are not now giving to the LORD, but it’s no place to stop.*** You see what I mean?

If you get a vision of what our salvation cost, see Christ on the cross, the cruel nails in his hands and feet, the mocking crowd and the weight of our sin... paying the penalty for you and for me— it will put your service and giving on a different plane.”

**“JESUS gave himself willingly to give us salvation from sin.**

If this grips us, we can't help but love Him. We will say with the song writer— Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.” .... It's easy to sing, “Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold. Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.” Only God's grace in a life can make it come true. Man, selfishly inclined, can't do it in his own power— IT TAKES GOD'S POWER! [The above is from R. G. LeTourneau's autobiography, Mover of Men and Mountains.]

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**THE CALL to give is not confined to the rich!**

**AS WE HAVE SEEN,** THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVED THE APOSTLE PAUL TO RECORD THE ACCOUNT of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia who gave in the midst of great trial and out of deep poverty to help the poor in Judea (2 Cor. 8:1-2).

**NOW: CONSIDER THE EXAMPLE OF HUDSON TAYLOR,** edited from an article by Florence Huntington Jensen

Taylor, as a little boy, said: "When I am a man, I mean to be a missionary and go to China!" James Hudson Taylor was born in Barnsley, England, May 1, 1832. HUDSON'S father was interested in foreign missionary work, and especially in China.

Both Hudson and his sister Amelia declared that they intended to go to that country some day. **HOWEVER, by the age of fifteen Hudson was far from God.**

HIS PARENTS were burdened for the salvation of their boy. His sister Amelia made up her mind that she would go alone three times a day to pray for him, and it was not long before those prayers were answered.

One day when he had nothing in particular to do, his eyes fell on a tract. As he read, conviction seized him and he gave himself to God. There was peace and joy in Hudson's heart, and in his gratitude he offered himself to God, to work wherever He might call him.

**HE BELIEVED GOD WAS SAYING TO HIM, "Go for Me to China!"** The call seemed as clear as if God had spoken in an audible voice, and the young man did not hesitate.

He told his Sunday-school teacher of his call, and was encouraged and given a copy of the gospel of Luke in a Chinese dialect. He tried to prepare himself in every possible way for the life of a missionary.

**He gave up his feather bed and** other things he had enjoyed, **so that** he would be used to a rugged life. Plenty of outdoor exercise made him stronger in body and Christian work strengthened his soul.

**He felt that if he wanted to win souls in China he must begin at home,** so he distributed tracts, taught a Sunday-school class, called on the sick and the poor, and did everything he could find to do for God.

Then he began studying the meaning of the Chinese letters in the little book his Sunday-school superintendent had given him. He knew that it would not be an easy task to learn the Chinese language and he wanted to begin as soon as possible.

Some one had said that those who learned it needed "bodies of iron, lungs of brass, heads of oak, hands of spring steel, eyes of eagles, hearts of apostles, memories of angels, and lives of Methuselah." Though far from possessing all these qualifications Hudson went at it courageously and made good progress.

**The next definite step in his preparation was to become the assistant of Doctor Hardey.** He knew that if he could become skilled in caring for sick bodies, it would give him a good chance to help souls. At first he lived in Doctor Hardey's home, which was very comfortable and pleasant, but not the best preparation for a missionary's life.

The next move was to his aunt's home, which was less luxurious than the doctor's. Still he felt there was much more chance for self-denial, and it was not long until he found just the kind of place he felt he needed.

**Hudson Taylor's next abode** -- and the one where he felt that he could get real training for China -- was in a very undesirable portion of the city of Hull. Two rows of poor little cottages faced each other, and between them was a ditch where rubbish was thrown. The neighborhood was called "Drainside." When the tide rose high enough the rubbish was carried away. Unattractive as this was, Hudson Taylor selected one of these cottages as his dwelling-place.

**A room less than twelve feet square was his,** while his landlady, Mrs. Finch, with her children, occupied the upstairs room and the kitchen. Mr. Finch was away at sea most of the time, and his wife was glad of the three shillings a week paid her by Hudson Taylor.

**He boarded himself and lived mostly on oatmeal, rice, and brown bread,**

***finding it a pleasure to deny himself***

***in order that he might have money***

***with which to help others!***

At the close of his day's work he would take his lonely walk to his comfortless room, and on Sundays he visited the sick and helped the poor.

There was one lesson that young Mr. Taylor knew he must learn, if he wanted to be a successful missionary in China, **and that was the lesson of faith.**

Dr. Hardey had told Hudson Taylor to remind him when it was time for his salary to be paid, as he was a very busy man, and probably rather forgetful, but Hudson made up his mind that he would do nothing except to pray about it. He felt that God could remind Dr. Hardey in answer to his prayers, and this would strengthen his faith.

One time the day drew near, and passed by, and the salary was not paid. At the end of the week, he found he had just a half-crown left. Still he said nothing, except to God.

Sunday night, after a meeting with the poor people to whom he often preached, a man asked him to come and pray for his wife, who seemed to be dying.

**The man had asked the priest to come, but he was too poor to pay the eighteen pence which the priest asked. His family was starving and the poor man was discouraged.**

Taylor knew they needed food and he thought,

"Ah, if I only had two shillings and sixpence instead of this half-crown, how gladly would I give these poor people a shilling." He had something at home for supper that night and for breakfast the next morning, but nothing more than that. **Could he give up all he had and trust God to supply his need?**

Through a dark court they went, then up some rickety stairs, and reached the poor room where the man's wife lay, with a baby thirty-six hours old, moaning at her side. Four or five hungry children stood about the room.

When Taylor saw this scene of poverty, he thought he would like to give them a shilling and a half, but had not made up his mind to give up the whole coin.

He tried to tell them of a loving heavenly Father who would care for them, but he could not say very much. Then he knelt to pray, but his conscience troubled him. **How could he pray when he was not willing to give to these poor people who needed help so desperately?**

"You see what a terrible state we are in, sir; if you can help us, for God's sake do!" the poor man said.

**Taylor remembered that Jesus said, "Give to him that asketh thee," and he obeyed the command. He gave up his all, and in doing that he not only helped the poor people in their distress, but he won a victory and was happy.**

*"Give, and it shall be given unto you," the Bible says, "good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over."*

Early the next morning the mailman left an envelope containing no letter, nor even the name of the sender, but a pair of new kid gloves and a half-sovereign coin. This was five times as much as he had given away, and he felt that God had paid him good interest.

**Two weeks more passed by and still the salary was unpaid.** His room rent would be due on Saturday night and his landlady really needed the money.

But he had made up his mind not to say anything to the doctor about it, and he adhered to his purpose. Late Saturday afternoon Dr. Hardey suddenly asked, "By the way, Taylor, is not your salary due?" Quietly the young man replied, "It is overdue some little time."

"Oh, I am sorry you didn't remind me," the doctor said. "You know how busy I am. Wish I had thought a little sooner, for only this afternoon I sent all the money I had to the bank. Otherwise I would pay you at once!"

**This was a test** of the young man's faith, indeed, but as soon as he could, he found a quiet place to pray, and God assured him that everything would work out all right.

That evening he prepared for Sunday's meetings among the poor.

### **DURING THIS PERIOD.... Hudson's giving:**

In 1851 he moved to Hull and began to work in a surgery. It was here that he enjoyed beautiful fellowship with the Plymouth Brethren. Dr. Andrew Jukes' ministry was especially helpful to him. It was here that he also heard much about George Muller and his

work in Bristol.

Muller's testimonies of prayer and faith challenged him to the very depths of his soul.

With a desire to tithe every penny (give one tenth of all income to God), Hudson rented a simple room in a cottage.

Before long he was giving two-thirds of his income to Gods work!

He lived a simple disciplined life of sacrifice in preparation for China. If he could not trust in God and believe His promises in England then he would never manage in China. His heart burned for China.

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for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do." (New Living Translation- 2 Cor. 8:1-5)

WITH THANKSGIVING for you all!

James Bell // [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

## **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:**

**MONDAYS:** Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. (This ministry is presently ON HOLD... PRAY FOR opening of doors!)

**TUESDAYS:** Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM.**

**WEDNESDAYS:** → 6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities; → 6:30pm— **Youth** Activities and Bible Study—

**→ 6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...**

(Enter via IRON STEPS; or double doors by gym)

\*\*\* **LADIES BIBLE STUDY—** **Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, JANUARY 8, 2019 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, *[Doors open at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am]*

\*\*\* **MEN: EVERY SATURDAY @ 8:00am:** Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! **(STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!)** ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. **[DOORS OPEN FOR FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits & Donuts at 7:30am!]**

**SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**

<http://www.southsidegallatin.org/>  
[Listen\\_to\\_other\\_sermons\\_on\\_sermonaudio/](#)

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## **SUNDAY SERVICES: November 25**

***Sunday School at 9:30am // Worship at 10:45am***

***NOTES as to meetings AFTER Morning Worship Services:***

***November 25 — 6:00pm... Church-wide EQUIPPING HOUR, presently: SHEPHERDING A CHILD'S HEART!***

**Advance notes on December Schedule:**

**December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

***ALL 5 SUNDAYS: Sunday School at 9:30am /Worship at 10:45am***

***ADDITIONAL NOTES... ABOUT EACH SUNDAY:***

***1. December 2 — Noon, Covered Dish Fellowship Meal! (NOTE: This year, instead of missing Sunday School for a brunch... we will focus on this 12/2 COVERED DISH MEAL... 'Lunch or Brunch' items are welcome at the NOON FELLOWSHIP!)***

***2. December 9— 5:30pm... Monthly Faithful Men's Meeting***

***3. December 16— DURING the worship hour,***

***\*\*\* The Choir and/or others... will share extra music, as we REJOICE in the BIRTH OF CHRIST];***

***\*\*\*\* WE WILL PREACH the Word of God; and***

***\*\*\*\*\* Conclude with the LORD'S SUPPER!***

***NO evening HOME GROUPS***

**4. December 23— NO** evening service

**5. December 30— NO** 5<sup>TH</sup> Sunday Evening Service