

Deuteronomy 15:11

For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.'

I just love, love giving and doing for others. No I am not bragging, it's the heart the Lord has given me, and I think all Christians would feel the same way. Now on the other hand, one of the hardest things I do is giving and doing for others.

"Wait Steve, that doesn't make sense at all, how can you do both?" You are right, and hopefully today's devotional verse will help explain it.

This is Moses speaking to the Children of Israel before they go into the Promised Land, even though Moses was not allowed to go with them, he still gave them instruction, which is what the book of Deuteronomy is all about. Spoiler alert, it ends with Moses dying. But today's devotional is not about that, it's just a little bonus teaching.

So when I read today's verse in my bible '***You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.***' I wrote right next to it in the margin "*Not the lazy*"

But that is my struggle, and maybe it's the same for some of you. I love helping those in need, yet I see so many on the street corners asking for handouts. A lot of them are young kids in their 20's or even 30's. Yet there is no reason they cannot get a job, other than being lazy. They can work at a fast food restaurant and make some money and eat as well. Or at a store or gas station or whatever. So many jobs that an education is not needed and really there is no excuse. Now I am not saying all are like that, but I think it would be safe to say that most are.

But the bible is clear that we are to help the poor and those in need '***You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.***' But the bible is also clear that we are not to help the lazy.

† **2 Thessalonians 3:10-11** *For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.*

† **Proverbs 20:4** *The lazy man will not plow because of winter; He will beg during harvest and have nothing.*

So what do we do? For those who are really in need, I think the bible is very clear that we are to help them!

But for those who can actually work, offer them to come and mow your lawn, or tell them to go pick up trash somewhere and you will pay them to do this or offer them some other sort of work,

even if it's for an hour. If they come up with excuses, they don't want to work, they are lazy, and we are not to help the lazy.

† **Proverbs 26:16** *The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes Than seven men who can answer sensibly.*