

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Let's suppose I gave a friend of mine a gift of steak knives. The purpose of this gift would be so that he would invite others over for a steak dinner. So he has this dinner and invites those who could not normally afford steak over for a grand meal. What he has done is used the gift for good and the intended purpose.

Second scenario, same friend and same gift, but instead of using these steak knives to have others over for a steak dinner, he uses them to murder someone. What he has just done is taken a perfectly good gift and used it for a sinful purpose.

We all know this next verse.

† **1 Tim 6:10** *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

Just like the steak knives, God can give you a perfectly good gift, like money, because money in itself is not sinful, but "***the love of money***" is as well as what you do with it can be sinful. Just like the steak knives.

So the question is, what are you doing with what the Lord has given you? Are you using it for good and its intended purpose, or for sin?

In the scenario, I gave the gift, but it was up to the one who received it to decide what he would do with it, and depending upon what he did with it, would determine if I would give him more.

God gives to us, and it's up to us to determine what we will do with it. Like your paycheck; you can use it to pay bills, and buy gas for your car, and groceries for you and your family. On the other hand you can take this same paycheck and go to Las Vegas and gamble it all away, or even just spend it unwisely, like on alcohol, drugs and partying.

So think of what the Lord has blessed you with, whether it is money, or a good job, or your family, a good church, good friends or whatever it may be. Now stop and think, how are you using these things? For good and God's glory, or to sin?

God has given to us, but it's up to us what we will do with it.

† **Matthew 7:11 (NLT2)** *So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.*

✝ **Luke 6:38** *Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.*