

Psalm 112:9 (NLT2)

They share freely and give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever. They will have influence and honor.

If you only give during the Holidays, then you are allowing the world to dictate your giving, not the Lord. We as Christians know that we should be doing for others and giving to those in need. Yet how many actually do it, other than during Thanksgiving and Christmas? For Christians, giving is not a special occasion, but rather a way of life. It's not an emotion, but a life changing act of kindness.

† **Zechariah 7:9-10 (NLT2)** *This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: Judge fairly, and show mercy and kindness to one another. Do not oppress widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor. And do not scheme against each other.*

If you are only giving and doing for others during the Holidays, then you are giving out of emotion and doing it to make yourself feel good, not because the person is in need. When you give and only do so during the Holiday's you are doing it based upon an emotion, not because the person is in need.

"Oh, that's not true, I give because I see those poor little kids with no toys or that family with no Thanksgiving dinner." Which is a good thing to help out with, but do you think that people only need food, clothing and help only during the Holidays and not throughout the year? How many in the USA and throughout the world are homeless, or have no food, or wear the same old clothes day after day, and they struggle all year because the only help they ever get is during the Holidays?

Look at today's verse again: ***"They share freely and give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever."*** I do not see anywhere in this verse, or the bible, the addition of doing only during the Holidays. Yet how many change this verse by the way they do things to: ***They share freely and give generously to those in need only during the Holidays.***

Once again, in the bible it does not say to give because it will make you feel good, but rather so those receiving will feel good and glorify our Father in Heaven.

† **Matthew 5:16** *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Maybe you know those who give throughout the year, or your church is very likely doing for others throughout the year as well. Learn by their example.

† Acts 20:35 (NLT2) *And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

Maybe you don't know who is in need or what organization is good to give to. First, ask your pastor or one of the elders in the church you go to. I'm sure they know people in the church, as well as in your neighborhood, that could use your help. Or maybe it's a matter of giving extra to the church to help support the giving ministries in your church.

I know one organization that I wholeheartedly support is Compassion International. Because the support of a child gives that child food, clothing, medications, an education and most important, the gospel. It's also a huge witness to their parent as well, I know this firsthand, because sometimes I get letters from their parents who are thankful and give God the glory.

We have all needed help at one time or another. Do you remember how thankful you were that someone helped you out, and it wasn't even the Holidays?

Now, ***"Go and do likewise."***

† Luke 10:36-37 ***"So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?"*** And he said, ***"He who showed mercy on him."*** Then Jesus said to him, ***"Go and do likewise."***

† 2 Corinthians 8:14 (NLT2) ***Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal.***