

# Gift Giver

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God is consistently presented as the ultimate Giver of every good gift in the Bible. Through the Holy Spirit, the Giver is God Himself to benefit the body of Christ and glorify Him.

In the context of Scripture, the concept of a "gift giver" is primarily attributed to God, who is the source of every good and perfect gift. This theme appears throughout the Old and New Testaments, emphasizing that God's generosity is an essential attribute of His character.

## Gift Giver in the Old Testament

The Old Testament uses the Hebrew word **נָתַן (natan)**, which means "to give" or "to bestow." This term frequently describes God's giving nature. One notable example is in the creation narrative, where God gives life, dominion, and provision to humanity:

- **Genesis 1:29 (AMP)** "And God said, 'Behold, I have given (**נָתַתִּי**) you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food."
  - **Context:** This verse highlights God as the original provider of life-sustaining resources. It shows God's provision as a blessing bestowed upon mankind, an act of grace and kindness.
- **Psalms 85:12 (AMP)** "The Lord will indeed give (**יִתֵּן**) what is good, and our land will yield its harvest."
  - **Context:** The verb *yitten* (**יִתֵּן**) underscores God's character to give what is good, which in this context refers to the fruitfulness of the land, a sign of His covenant faithfulness.

- **Isaiah 11:2 (AMP)** "And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him—The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and strength, The Spirit of knowledge and the reverential and obedient fear of the Lord—"
  - **Context:** This verse is prophetic, pointing toward the Messiah (Jesus Christ) and the specific *gifts of the Spirit* that would rest upon Him. These "spirits" or attributes reflect gifts that come directly from God.
  
- **Exodus 35:30-31 (AMP)** "Then Moses said to the Israelites, 'See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom and skill, with intelligence and understanding, and with knowledge in all areas of craftsmanship.'"
  - **Context:** God gives explicitly the *gifts of wisdom and craftsmanship* to Bezalel, equipping him to construct the Tabernacle and its furnishings. This demonstrates that even practical skills are spiritual gifts from God.
  
- **Deuteronomy 8:18 (AMP):** "But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day."
  - **Context:** This verse acknowledges that even the ability to gain wealth and success comes from God. He gives His people the strength and opportunities to succeed, which aligns with His covenant.
  
- **Psalms 68:19 (AMP)** "Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, The God who is our salvation. Selah."
  - **Context:** God is described as a giver of daily provision and salvation, continually supporting His people.
  
- **Proverbs 2:6 (AMP)** "For the Lord gives [skillful and godly] wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding."
  - **Context:** This verse underscores that wisdom, knowledge, and understanding are gifts from God, reinforcing the theme that all good things come from Him.

## Gift Giver in the New Testament

In the New Testament, the Giver is more clearly defined as God through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts to believers according to His will. The New Testament uses several Greek words related to giving, the most common being **δίδωμι (didōmi)**, which means "to give, grant, or bestow." The New Testament elaborates on God's role as the ultimate gift-giver, including the gift of His Son and the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

- **John 3:16 (AMP)** "For God so loved the world, that He gave (ἔδωκεν) His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."
  - **Context:** The Greek verb *edōken* (ἔδωκεν) comes from *didōmi*. This act of giving—offering His only Son—expresses the pinnacle of divine generosity and self-sacrifice. God's love is manifested in the greatest possible gift: salvation through Jesus Christ.
- **James 1:17 (AMP)** "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of lights [the Creator and Sustainer of the heavens], in whom there is no variation [no rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning [for He is perfect and never changes]."
  - **Context:** God is the source of every good gift, both spiritual and natural. This verse highlights His unchanging nature and His role as the consistent Gift Giver.
  - **Greek Word Study:** Two distinct Greek words are used here: *dosis* (δόσις), meaning the act of giving, and *dōreōma* (δώρημα), referring to the gift itself. This emphasizes God's reliability and generosity.
- **1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (AMP)** "Now there are [distinctive] varieties of spiritual gifts [special abilities given by the grace and extraordinary power of the Holy Spirit operating in believers], but it is the same Spirit [who grants them and empowers believers]...."
  - **Greek Word Study:**
    - *Gift* (χάρισμα | *charisma*): This Greek word is derived from *charis*, meaning grace, indicating a gracious gift from God that cannot be earned.
    - *Spirit* (πνεῦμα | *pneuma*): Refers to the Holy Spirit, emphasizing that each gift is a manifestation of the Spirit.
  - **Context:** These verses describe the distribution of *spiritual gifts* through the Holy Spirit. All gifts are different, yet they come from the same Triune God.
- **Ephesians 4:7-8 (AMP)** "Yet grace [God's undeserved favor] was given to each one of us [not indiscriminately, but in different ways] in proportion to the measure of Christ's [rich and abundant] gift. Therefore it says, 'When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and He bestowed gifts on men.'"
  - **Greek Word Study:** *Gift* (δωρεά | *dorea*): A word emphasizing the freeness of the gift, indicating it was given without compulsion.
  - **Context:** Paul quotes Psalm 68:18 to show that Christ distributed spiritual gifts to men after His resurrection and ascension: Christ the Giver *and the gift*.

- **Romans 12:6 (AMP)** "Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them accordingly...."
  - **Greek Word Study:** *Gift* (χάρισμα | *charisma*): This word is used to describe *spiritual gifts* given by God through His grace.
  - **Context:** Paul encourages believers to use their gifts according to God's grace. Each gift serves a specific purpose within the body of Christ.
- **Hebrews 2:4 (AMP)** "God also testifying with them [confirming the message of salvation], both by signs and wonders and by various miracles carried out by Jesus and the apostles, and by granting to believers the gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will."
  - **Greek Word Study:** *Gifts* (μερισμός | *merismos*): This term means "distribution" and emphasizes God's sovereignty in choosing what each believer receives.
  - **Context:** This verse highlights that God, through the Holy Spirit, distributes gifts according to His will. The gifts validate the message of salvation and the work of Christ.
- **Acts 2:38 (AMP)** "And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift (δωρεά) of the Holy Spirit.'"
  - **Greek Word Study:** *Gift* (δωρεά | *dorea*): This word specifically means "a gift freely given," signifying the Holy Spirit as a gracious, undeserved blessing.
  - **Context:** This reflects God's abundant generosity in providing His presence to believers through the Holy Spirit.
- **Romans 6:23 (AMP)** "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God [that is, His remarkable, overwhelming gift of grace to believers] is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
  - **Context:** This verse contrasts the consequences of sin with the *gift of eternal life* given by God through Jesus Christ. It highlights the ultimate spiritual gift—eternal life.
- **Romans 5:15-17 (AMP)** "But the free gift [of God] is not like the trespass [because the gift of grace overwhelms the fall of man].... For if by the trespass of the one [Adam] death reigned through the one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in eternal life through the One, Jesus Christ."
  - **Context:** This passage emphasizes that God's *gift of grace* and *gift of righteousness* are given freely through Jesus Christ, in contrast to the judgment brought by sin.
- **Matthew 7:11 (AMP)** "If you then, evil [sinful by nature] as you are, know how to give good and advantageous gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven [perfect as He is] give what is good and advantageous to those who keep on asking Him."
  - **Context:** Jesus uses this analogy to show that if earthly parents know how to give good gifts, God, who is perfect, will undoubtedly provide even better gifts to His children. This highlights God's generous nature.

- **John 4:10 (AMP)** "Jesus answered her, 'If you knew about God's gift [of eternal life], and who it is who says, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him [instead], and He would have given you living water [eternal life].'"
  - **Context:** In Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman, He presents the Giver of *living water*—a metaphor for eternal life. God's gift here represents salvation and spiritual sustenance.
  
- **1 Peter 4:10 (AMP)** "Just as each one of you has received a special gift [a spiritual talent, an ability graciously given by God], employ it in serving one another as [is appropriate for] good stewards of God's multifaceted grace [faithfully using the diverse, varied gifts and abilities granted to Christians by God's unmerited favor]."

  - **Context:** Encourages believers to use their spiritual gifts, acknowledging that God gives them for the benefit of others. It highlights the diversity of God's grace in the gifts He provides.

  
- **2 Corinthians 9:15 (AMP)** "Now thanks be to God for His indescribable gift [which is precious beyond words]!"
  - **Context:** This refers to the *gift of Jesus Christ* and the salvation He provides, described as a gift too wonderful for words. It underscores the profound nature of God's giving.



Luke 11:13 (AMP) "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask and continue to ask Him?"

Greek Breakdown:

1. **"Give" (δίδωμι | *didōmi*):**

- a. This Greek verb *didōmi* means "to give, grant, or bestow." It implies the act of freely offering something, without compulsion, as a benevolent act. In this context, it reflects God's generosity in giving the *Holy Spirit* to those who ask. The verb also emphasizes the *continuous nature* of God's giving—He doesn't give begrudgingly but with willingness and abundance.

2. **"Good gifts" (δόματα ἀγαθὰ | *domata agatha*):**

- a. ***Doma* (δόμα)** means "gifts" or "things given." This word is a noun that focuses on the gift itself as a tangible or spiritual blessing.
- b. ***Agathos* (ἀγαθός)** means "good" or "beneficial." This adjective describes the quality of the gifts—God's gifts are not just good in a moral sense but are beneficial and necessary for life. The word emphasizes the *perfect and beneficial* nature of the gifts given by God.
- c. Together, *domata agatha* refers to "beneficial or good gifts," which underscores that what God gives is always aimed at the well-being of His children.

3. **"Holy Spirit" (τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον | *to Pneuma to Hagion*):**

- a. ***Pneuma* (πνεῦμα)** means "spirit," and in this context, it specifically refers to the *Holy Spirit*, the third person of the Trinity. The word *pneuma* is also used to denote "breath" or "wind," signifying something unseen yet powerful and life-giving.
- b. ***Hagion* (ἅγιον)** means "holy" or "set apart." This emphasizes the sacred and divine nature of the gift. The Holy Spirit is given by God to lead, comfort, empower, and sanctify believers.

4. **"Ask" (αἰτέω | *aiteō*):**

- a. This Greek verb *aiteō* means "to ask, request, or beg." In this verse, it is written in the *present active tense*, meaning that the asking is continual or ongoing. Jesus teaches that we should persistently ask for the Holy Spirit, knowing that God will generously give.

Expanded Context: This verse parallels earthly parents giving gifts to their children and God, the ultimate Father, giving His children the best possible gift—the *Holy Spirit*. In both Greek and Jewish thought, the Holy Spirit represents divine presence, wisdom, and guidance. God gives the most essential gift for spiritual life and transformation by giving the Holy Spirit. The Greek words in this verse emphasize God's *continuous generosity* and the *perfect nature* of His gifts, particularly the Holy Spirit, which empowers believers for righteous living.

2 Timothy 1:6-7 (AMP) "That is why I remind you to fan into flame the gracious gift of God, [that inner fire—the special endowment] which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity or cowardice or fear, but [He has given us a spirit] of power and love and sound judgment and personal discipline [abilities that result in a calm, well-balanced mind, and self-control]."

Greek Breakdown:

1. **"Gift" (χάρισμα | *charisma*):**

- a. The word *charisma* (χάρισμα) comes from the root word *charis* (χάρις), meaning "grace." The term *charisma* means a gift that is *grace-given*, highlighting that it is not earned or deserved but freely bestowed by God out of His grace. It refers specifically to a *spiritual gift*, given to build up the Church and serve others.
- b. In Timothy's case, this *charisma* was a special *spiritual endowment* he received through prayer and the laying on of hands, indicating the transfer of responsibility and empowerment for ministry.

2. **"Fan into flame" (ἀναζωπυρέω | *anazōpyreō*):**

- a. This Greek verb *anazōpyreō* is a combination of *ana* (again) and *zōpyreō* (to kindle, stir up, or rekindle a fire). It means "to stir up" or "to rekindle" something already present, like a fire that needs to be reignited. In this context, Paul is urging Timothy to rekindle the *spiritual gift* he has received and to continue to use it fervently.
- b. The use of this verb emphasizes that spiritual gifts, though given by God, require the active participation of the believer to keep them alive and effective.

3. **"Spirit" (πνεῦμα | *pneuma*):**

- a. As seen before, *pneuma* means "spirit" or "breath." In this case, Paul is referring to the *spiritual disposition* or attitude that comes from God. He clarifies that God did not give believers a *pneuma* of fear or timidity but instead a *pneuma* characterized by *power, love, and self-discipline*.

4. **"Power" (δύναμις | *dynamis*):**

- a. The word *dynamis* means "power" or "strength." It refers to both *spiritual power* (miraculous power from God) and the ability to act with authority. In this context, it signifies the spiritual strength and ability given by God to overcome obstacles and fear in ministry.

5. **"Love" (ἀγάπη | *agapē*):**

- a. The Greek word *agapē* is the highest form of love, often referred to as "divine love." It is the *selfless, sacrificial love* that comes from God. This love empowers believers to serve and care for others with the same kind of love God shows toward us.

6. **"Sound judgment" or "self-discipline" (σωφρονισμός | *sōphronismos*):**

- a. The Greek word *sōphronismos* refers to "self-control, sound judgment, or a well-balanced mind." It conveys the idea of moderation, prudence, and the ability to act wisely under pressure. This *gift of the Spirit* helps believers make wise decisions and maintain self-control in all areas of life.

Expanded Context: Paul reminds Timothy to "fan into flame" the *spiritual gift* he received, encouraging him to cultivate and use it actively. This passage underscores that God equips His people not with a spirit of fear but with one of *power, love, and self-discipline*. The Greek words used here emphasize the transformation God provides through His gifts—empowering believers to live courageously and lovingly while maintaining sound judgment. Paul's instructions suggest that spiritual gifts, though freely given, must be nurtured and used with intentionality to achieve their full potential.

Both passages (Luke 11:13 and 2 Timothy 1:6-7) highlight different aspects of God's gift-giving nature. In **Luke 11:13**, God is portrayed as the generous Father who gives the most necessary and perfect gift—the Holy Spirit—when asked. In **2 Timothy 1:6-7**, Paul emphasizes that God's gifts, especially spiritual ones, are given not for fear or timidity but for *power, love, and self-control*. In both cases, the Greek breakdown of the terms reveals the depth and significance of the gifts, showing that they are freely given by God's grace but require active engagement and stewardship by believers.



## Key Insights

- **The Holy Spirit as the Distributor:** In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is explicitly named as the one who distributes gifts to believers according to the will of God (1 Corinthians 12:11).
- **The Triune God in Giving:** Every member of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is involved in the distribution of gifts, each emphasizing a different aspect of the gift-giving (Ephesians 4:6-8).
- **Gifts are Grace-Given (χάρις | charis):** The root of many words for gifts (e.g., *charisma*) is grace. This reflects that gifts are undeserved, rooted in God's grace, and given for a purpose beyond the individual (Romans 12:6).
- **Purpose of the Gifts:** Spiritual gifts are always given for the *edification of the body of Christ* (1 Corinthians 14:12) and for *serving others* (1 Peter 4:10).
- **Gifts Are Part of the New Covenant:** The giving of spiritual gifts is closely tied to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, promised by Christ, and fulfilled at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).
- **God's Giving is Rooted in His Nature:** Throughout Scripture, the emphasis is not only on what God gives but on the gift of the Giver. God gives out of love (John 3:16), out of faithfulness (Psalm 85:12), and without partiality (James 1:17).
- **Gifts Reflect Relationship:** God's gifts are often linked to covenantal relationships—He gives to bless, provide, and sustain His people, pointing to a deeper relational intent behind each provision.

The ultimate *gift giver* in Scripture is God Himself. He gives *spiritual and natural gifts* to humanity according to His will, through His Spirit, and for His glory. Every believer receives these gifts *freely* and is called to use them *faithfully* for the *benefit of others* and the *advancement of God's kingdom*.

## Open Hand

The idea is to trust God's sovereignty and not cling to earthly things, recognizing that everything we have is from Him, and He has the right to give and take away as He wills. Here are some scriptures that support this mindset and emphasize the importance of placing our focus on God rather than on the gifts:

- **Job 1:21 (AMP)** "He said, 'Naked [without possessions] I came [into this world] from my mother's womb, and naked I will return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.'"
  - **Context:** Job acknowledges that everything he had—his family, wealth, and health—was a gift from God. When God allowed it to be taken away, Job still chose to bless God, showing that his focus was not on the gifts but the Giver. This verse highlights the importance of having an "open hand" mentality, trusting God's wisdom in both giving and taking away.
- **Matthew 6:19-21 (AMP)** "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
  - **Context:** Jesus teaches that we should not focus on *earthly treasures* or the gifts we receive in this life because they are temporary. Instead, we should focus on storing heavenly treasures, reflecting our relationship with the Giver of all good things. This aligns with not clinging to the gifts but holding them loosely while prioritizing eternal things.
- **Philippians 4:11-12 (AMP)** "Not that I speak from [any personal] need, for I have learned to be content [and self-sufficient through Christ, satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or uneasy] regardless of my circumstances. I know how to get along and live humbly [in difficult times], and I also know how to enjoy abundance [and live in prosperity]. In every circumstance I have learned the secret [of facing life], whether well-fed or going hungry, whether having an abundance or being in need."
  - **Context:** Paul's contentment was not based on the *gifts* (whether he had plenty or was in need) but on Christ, the *Giver*. This passage emphasizes that our joy and satisfaction should come from God alone, regardless of what we possess.
- **1 Timothy 6:17-19 (AMP)** "As for the rich in this present world, instruct them not to be conceited and arrogant, nor to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly and ceaselessly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, willing to share [with others]."
  - **Context:** Paul instructs Timothy to remind believers not to place their trust in riches (or gifts) but in *God* who provides. The emphasis here is on enjoying God's provision without becoming attached to it and being willing to share generously, reflecting an open-hand approach.

- **James 1:9-11 (AMP)** "Let the brother in humble circumstances glory in his high position [as a born-again believer, called to the true riches and to be an heir of God]; and the rich [person ought to glory] in being humbled [by trials revealing human frailty], because like the flower of the grass, he will pass away."
  - **Context:** This passage reminds us that earthly possessions are fleeting and that our true value comes from our relationship with God, not from the gifts or wealth we have. The rich are to recognize the temporary nature of their gifts and focus on their relationship with the Gift Giver.
- **Colossians 3:2 (AMP)** "Set your mind and keep focused habitually on the things above [the heavenly things], not on things that are on the earth [which have only temporal value]."
  - **Context:** Paul urges believers to focus their hearts and minds on *heavenly things*, reflecting a life centered on God rather than earthly possessions or temporary gifts. This Scripture reinforces the idea of keeping an open hand, knowing that earthly gifts are temporary, while the Giver (God) is eternal.
- **Matthew 19:21 (AMP)** "Jesus answered him, 'If you wish to be perfect [that is, have the spiritual maturity that accompanies godly character with no moral or ethical deficiencies], go and sell what you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me [becoming My disciple, believing and trusting in Me and walking the same path of life that I walk].'"
  - **Context:** Jesus challenges the rich young ruler to let go of his attachment to *earthly possessions* (gifts) and follow Him. This passage teaches that *following the Giver (Jesus)* is of greater value than holding on to material gifts, emphasizing that a relationship with God surpasses any earthly gain.
- **Ecclesiastes 5:19 (AMP)** "Also, every man to whom God has given riches and possessions, He has also given the power and ability to enjoy them and to receive this as his allotted portion and to rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God [to him]."
  - **Context:** While acknowledging that material blessings are gifts from God, the writer of Ecclesiastes warns not to cling to them. Enjoying them is good, but they should be seen as gifts from *the Giver*, not as something to be hoarded or idolized.
- **1 John 2:15-17 (AMP):** "Do not love the world [of sin that opposes God and His precepts], nor the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust and sensual craving of the flesh and the lust and longing of the eyes and the boastful pride of life [pretentious confidence in one's resources or in the stability of earthly things]—these do not come from the Father, but are from the world. The world is passing away, and with it its lusts; but the one who does the will of God [and carries out His purposes] lives forever."
  - **Context:** This passage directly speaks to the idea of not getting attached to the things of this world (gifts) because they are fleeting. The focus should be on doing the *will of God*,

which leads to eternal life. It reinforces the idea that we should live with an open hand, not holding onto worldly desires but instead seeking God.

- **Luke 12:15 (AMP)** "Then He said to them, 'Watch out and guard yourselves against every form of greed; for not even when one has an overflowing abundance does his life consist of, nor is it derived from his possessions.'"
  - **Context:** Jesus warns against greed and the obsession with possessions (gifts). He emphasizes that life is not defined by material abundance but by our relationship with God. This Scripture aligns with the principle of holding loosely to what we have, understanding that life is more than the gifts we receive.
- **Matthew 16:24-26 (AMP)** "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me]. For whoever wishes to save his life [in this world] will [eventually] lose it [through death], but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it [that is, life with Me for all eternity]. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world [wealth, fame, success], but forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?'"
  - **Context:** Jesus teaches that the focus should be on following Him, even if it means giving up worldly gains or gifts. The value of eternal life with Christ surpasses any material possession or achievement we might cling to. This reinforces the idea of not being attached to worldly gifts but prioritizing God and His will.
- **Hebrews 13:5 (AMP)** "Let your character [your moral essence, your inner nature] be free from the love of money [shun greed—be financially ethical], being content with what you have; for He has said, 'I will never [under any circumstances] desert you [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless].'"
  - **Context:** This verse encourages believers to be content with what they have and trust in God's presence and provision. It teaches that our security comes from God Himself, not from the gifts or material possessions He provides.
- **2 Corinthians 4:18 (AMP)** "So we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are unseen; for the things which are visible are temporal [just brief and fleeting], but the things which are invisible are everlasting and imperishable."
  - **Context:** Paul reminds us that *earthly things* (the gifts we see) are temporary, but *spiritual realities* (the things we cannot see) are eternal. This passage reinforces the need to focus on God and eternal things rather than on temporary gifts.
- **1 Timothy 6:7 (AMP)** "For we have brought nothing into the world, so [it is clear that] we cannot take anything out of it either."

- **Context:** Paul emphasizes the transient nature of material possessions and gifts. Since we came into the world with nothing and will leave with nothing, our focus should be on God and eternal values, not on the temporary gifts we receive in this life.



- **Luke 10:20 (AMP)** "Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."
  - **Context:** After the disciples return from performing miracles, Jesus reminds them not to focus on the power and gifts they were given (such as casting out demons) but to rejoice in their eternal relationship with God. This Scripture illustrates the principle that even spiritual gifts should not be our primary focus; our joy should be in our salvation and relationship with God.
  
- **Psalms 73:25-26 (AMP)** "Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the rock and strength of my heart and my portion forever."
  - **Context:** The psalmist expresses that his ultimate desire is for God, not earthly things. This verse illustrates a heart fully focused on the Giver (God) and not on the gifts He may or may not provide.
  
- **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (AMP)** "When all has been heard, the end of the matter is: fear God [worship Him with awe-filled reverence, knowing that He is Almighty God] and keep His commandments, for this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, every hidden and secret thing, whether it is good or evil."
  - **Context:** The conclusion of Ecclesiastes reminds us that the ultimate purpose in life is to *fear God* and *keep His commandments*. Earthly gifts and accomplishments fade compared to the need to live in awe of God and obey Him.
  
- **Matthew 6:33 (AMP)** "But first and most importantly seek (aim at, strive after) His kingdom and His righteousness [His way of doing and being right—the attitude and character of God], and all these things will be given to you also."
  - **Context:** Jesus instructs His followers to seek *God and His righteousness* first rather than focusing on material needs and gifts. When we put God first, He provides what we need. This reinforces the idea that our attention should always be on God, not on what He gives.



## The Open Hand Parable You May Not Have Know

When Jesus was crucified, His hands were nailed to the cross, which caused His arms to be stretched out and His hands to be open. The image of Jesus with open hands on the cross can symbolize several theological concepts, such as His willingness to give Himself fully for humanity's redemption, His openness to receive all who come to Him, and the ultimate act of sacrifice and love. The open hands also reflect His surrender to the Father's will, as Jesus gave up His life for the world's salvation.

### The Open Hands at the Crucifixion

- **John 19:18 (AMP)** "There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them."
  - **Context:** While the gospel accounts do not explicitly describe the physical position of Jesus' hands during His crucifixion, the Roman method of crucifixion involved nailing a person's hands to the cross, which would have left Jesus' hands open and outstretched. This posture of open hands is a visual representation of the open-hearted sacrifice that Jesus made for the world, extending His grace and offering reconciliation to all who believe.

### Thomas Touch Jesus' Scars

- **John 20:24-27 (AMP)** "But Thomas, one of the twelve [disciples], who was called Didymus (the twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples kept telling him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see in His hands the marks of the nails, and put my finger into the nail prints, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe.' Eight days later His disciples were again inside [the house], and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though the doors had been barred, and stood among them and said, 'Peace to you.' Then He said to Thomas, 'Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; put out your hand and place it in My side. Do not be unbelieving, but stop doubting and believe.'"
  - **Context:** After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples, but Thomas, also called "Doubting Thomas," was not present. Thomas expressed that he needed to see and touch Jesus' wounds to believe that He had risen. When Jesus appeared again, He invited Thomas to touch the nail scars in His hands and His pierced side.
  - **Were Jesus' hands open when Thomas touched them?** Although the Scripture does not specifically mention Jesus' hand position when He showed His scars to Thomas, we can infer that His hands were likely open or visible, showing the marks of the nails from the crucifixion. The openness of His hands after the resurrection reflects His invitation to Thomas to believe, and symbolically, it can be seen as Jesus' ongoing openness to those who seek Him.

## The Symbolism of Jesus' Open Hands

- **Open hands at the crucifixion** symbolize Jesus' total surrender and willingness to give His life for the sake of others (John 10:18).
- **Open hands after the resurrection** symbolize Jesus' continued invitation to believe and trust in Him, as seen in His encounter with Thomas (John 20:27).

The open hands of Jesus, both on the cross and in His post-resurrection appearance to Thomas, are powerful symbols of His self-sacrificial love, His readiness to receive all who come to Him, and His willingness to give without holding anything back. These moments reflect the idea of focusing on **Jesus, the Giver**, rather than the gifts, living with open hands in trust and surrendering God's will.

Living with an "open hand" means allowing God to place and remove things from our lives as He sees fit. It reflects **trust in God's sovereignty** and **freedom from attachment** to temporary gifts. This analogy can be summarized in several ways:

1. **God owns everything:** We are merely stewards of the gifts God gives us (1 Timothy 6:17-19). When we live with an open hand, we recognize that everything we have belongs to God, and we trust Him to give and take according to His will.
2. **Temporary nature of earthly gifts:** Just as Job said, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away" (Job 1:21), earthly possessions and even spiritual gifts are temporary. Our focus should be on God rather than on the temporary gifts.
3. **Cling to God, not gifts:** Paul's contentment, as shown in Philippians 4:11-12, was rooted in his relationship with Christ, not in his circumstances. Living with an open hand means holding onto God alone and being willing to let go of any gift if God asks it of us.

Living with an "open hand" emphasizes the importance of focusing on **God the Giver**, not the gifts themselves. Scriptures teach us that earthly things are temporary and fleeting, while our relationship with God is eternal. By holding everything loosely and trusting God to give and take as He sees fit, we cultivate a heart that is truly focused on the eternal, free from the burden of clinging to material or spiritual gifts. This mindset frees us to obey God, follow Him, and trust His plans.