

2025-09-6 CWW Week 38 - Sharing...

Well, hi everyone and welcome back to Church Without Walls. As we approach, uh, not approach. We're actually doing week 38 and our topic for this week is sharing and we're gonna be unpacking what the Bible says about that, a very important part of our journey. As, uh, believers in Christ. But before we unpack this story and, um, the verses we're gonna be discussing, let's bring the Holy Spirit in in prayer.

Dear Lord, father in heaven, we praise and honor you, Lord God, and we thank you for your many blessings, not the least of which is the beautiful Holy Spirit who guides and lead us through our Bible studies. It takes us on a journey to help us interpret your word and Father God, to bring us in contact with more Christ-like people on the same journey.

Father, as we interpret your word, and as I speak today, may you become bigger as I become smaller for this is our prayer. In your precious name, Lord Amen. Lots of great people, um, helping out in the hoodies, bible studies, uh, network. And that's www.hoodiesbiblestudies.com. You can go there and find someone in your area or nearby that you can, uh, do some Bible studies with if you want to further your information and help you as you go through your bible.

Uh, we've got a global network happening now. We've got someone on board in America as well who's doing that, and we welcome them. So, uh, these are just volunteers from various denominations. We were just happy to help you on your, um, on your, on your initial walk to, uh, faith with Jesus Christ. So, hoodies, bible studies.com, uh, a great initiative and we thank all those volunteers who are helping out and giving people Bible studies.

Now, you can, uh, do Zoom Bible studies with people if you're not near them, or you can catch up with people if you're nearby. But if you go to the website, there's contact details for people in your area. So that'll slowly continue to grow as our numbers grow as well. Wonderful thing. And we thank, uh, Liam Tross and others for the wonderful work they're doing in that regard.

There's a lot going on in the world, isn't there? There's. Uh, the Bible says, you know, the love of many will wax cold. And boy are we seeing that, uh, we're seeing things, seeing things that we would never have dreamt of even only a few short years ago. The world is on the brink. It's a tinderbox, that's for sure.

So it's vitally important that we understand the Holy Spirit's. Um. Guiding in our journey to faith with Jesus Christ as we become more Christ-like. And this week the topic is on sharing and sharing can take many forms. Sharing can be, uh, of course sharing, uh, you know, whatever wealth you may have, your, your financial resources with those less fortunate.

Uh, but it also involves sharing beyond money. And, um, there are lots of other ways we can share. We can share our time, spending time with the lonely and the hurting. And we can share our wisdom as we mentor and teach and counsel others. We can share encouragement with uplifting words and prayer, hospitality as we open our home and our table to others less fortunate and as well, resources, money, clothing, food, shelter.

There's so many different ways we can share. So it is very, uh, weighty topic in the Bible. There are many bible verses that relate to sharing and uh, I'm hoping you're gonna enjoy the, um. The, uh, daily checkup, uh, daily devotionals that I'll be recording on this subject as well as week 38 rolls on. So let's start looking at some of these bible verses and, uh, open your Bibles and come with me to the book of Hebrews chapter 13 and verse 16.

I'm using the new international version version today, um, to make it a little bit simpler for some of you. Hebrews 13 verse 16, and it says, do not forget to do good and to share with others for, with such sacrifices, God is pleased. Everything God, everything God gives us is meant to be shared with others.

What goes around, comes around. Everything of God is circular. We've talked about this before. Uh, the rain falls on the hills, runs into the creeks, into the rivers, into the lakes, out to the sea where it evaporates, gets blown back over the land again. In the form of water vapor, which forms clouds, and the rain continues.

Uh, we need oxygen, trees don't. So we breathe the same atmosphere and we give out carbon dioxide and, uh, of course the trees thrive on carbon dioxide and they pay us back by giving us fresh, clean oxygen. Uh, what a beautiful system it is. God's systems are beautiful and they're all about sharing. So, you know, if uh, you give it out, you should get it back.

Bountifully. That's what the Bible tells us. So giving is a good thing. Sharing with others is a great thing, and it doesn't have to involve money. God is pleased when we share, especially when it costs us something. It's gotta be something that, um, that we have to provide, we have to give of our own.

Sharing is an act of worship. When we share with others, we're worshipping God because we're demonstrating a Christ-like character. Let's go to the Book of Acts now. One of my favorites in Acts chapter two. That's that's how we do church Acts chapter two, kind of church. It's brilliant. So open your Bibles to Acts chapter two and verses 44 and 45.

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. The early church shared everything, not out, not out of obligation, but as a sign of love and unity. Real community involves real generosity. Um, we have a, we have an open door policy here where we live, Michelle and I, and we've had lots of people in desperate situations stay with us for lengthy periods of time as we can accommodate them.

And, uh, we've been able to support a lot of people in that way and help them on their journey to recovery. We've been doing the recovery program now for 18 years, our 12 step Christ-centered, uh, recovery program, recovery road, which involves a lot of giving. And, um, and to see people receive the light of the Holy Spirit in those works has just been wonderful.

Uh, let's go now to Luke chapter three and verse 11. Luke three, excuse me, and verse 11. Here we go. And John answered, anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none. And anyone who has food should do the same. Sharing is a basic response to God's call for justice and mercy. If we have more than we need, we're called to help others.

And that also is a wonderful giving things, giving thing that we do for ourselves. Because, you know, whenever you've given someone a gift of your own, of your own choosing, uh, and you've seen them light up when you do that, when they see the generosity in you. Always great to point them straight to heaven because that's where the encouragement comes from to do so.

And Luke chapter three, verse 11 is a beautiful way of describing that. Let's go to our next verse one, Timothy six and verse 18, one Timothy verse chapter six and verse 18. Command them to do good. To be rich in good deeds and to be generous and willing to share. In summary, what this means is those with, with, with wealth, and not just encouraged, but commanded to be generous and to share, this is a key part of Faithful Living.

Now, I know people with of means, uh, now quite a few people of means who, uh, where money's, money's not their issue. They don't have a problem with money. But they're giving people, um, I've brought a lot of people into their path, uh, that have been where they've been able to share some of their resources with those people and make a real difference.

And the joy of seeing people connect in a giving way, it's amazing. We've seen some absolute miracles. And what I love is the people that I'm talking about, the givers, um, would rather do it anonymously. That's what, that's what giving's all about. It's not about what you get back, it's about what you give out without any expectation to receive anything in return other than gratitude, of course.

But even then, there's no expectation of that. It's all about the giving. Let's look at Proverbs 11 and verse 25. Proverbs 11, verse 25. 11 and here we go. Verse 25. A generous person will prosper. Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. That's what I, I mean about what you give out comes back bountifully.

You get much more when you give out. Uh, the summary of this verse is that sharing doesn't leave us empty. In fact, quite the, the opposite. God promises that generosity leads to blessing both practically and spiritually. It does. You know what it's like when you've helped someone in need. It just feels right, doesn't it?

It just feels good and we don't do it to feel good. We do it because that's what God calls on us to do. But when we obey his commands and when we try and develop our character each day, as I say, every day is a journey in our life of character development. Giving and sharing is a wonderful way of doing that.

We always get back more when we do that. Let's now look at Galatians. Go to the book of Galatians New Testament, chapter six and verse six, chapter six and verse six, and here we go. Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word shall share all goods with their instructor. With their instructor.

So, um, sharing includes honoring and supporting those who teach and guide us spiritually. It's a form of partnership and respect, and that's what the traditional methods of tithing was all about. It was about 10% of your goods and, and storehouse was meant to be given to a church pastors and, uh, those out preaching the gospel.

That's how they survived. These people went from house to house and they were nourished. God made sure they were looked after. There's a wonderful saying that goes, God owns all the capital on a cattle on a thousand hills, and he always makes sure that our needs are met, not necessarily our wants, but our needs.

And that's what's important because he knows what we need. Let's look at Romans 12 and chapter th, verse 13. Romans chapter 12. And verse 13. Here we go. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality, Christian Love is practical. We're called to meet needs, open our homes, and live with open hands and open hearts.

Boy, our place is flat out pretty much every second weekend. We've got heaps of people here all enjoying good food that they bring and share with others. Comradery worship, singing and sharing the gospel with each other. It's just absolutely beautiful. The house is filled and Michelle's always really busy for a couple of days before preparing food and making sure everyone's welcome.

And there are times when we have 40 or 50 people here and that, uh, the spirit, when everyone leaves, it's just high as a kite. We just feel great because we've all grown from the experience. Let's, um. Go to Galatians chapter six and verse two, Galatians chapter six and verse two. Here we go. Carry each other's burdens and in this, you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Sharing is not just about things. The best things in life aren't things, everybody there, relationships. It's about sharing burdens and walking through life together with, with compassion financial burdens. Your, your daily bread or just being able to sit and give a, give a listening ear to somebody who's down and out and feeling a bit distressed about life and what's going on for them.

Another form of giving, we go back to Acts chapter four and verse 32. Now Acts chapter four and verse 32. All the believers were in one heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything that they had. Early believers saw everything they owned as a tool to bless others.

True community means selfless sharing. That really sums it up. It's all about community. 'cause don't forget, you are giving to someone and in your time of need, they're sharing back with you. It's like we store. Our surplus in a battery when we give it to other people and when we are down and they have a surplus, it comes back when we need it.

It's a beautiful way to live. No expectations. Just a beautiful way to live. Second Corinthians, chapter nine and verse seven. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver. God doesn't want force sharing. He wants it to come from the heart freely and joyfully knowing that we're making a difference, knowing that we are making a difference in the name of God.

So, um, there's some of the verses on sharing for this week. Uh, uh, biblical principles. God is generous. We share because he first shared everything with us. John three 16. Sharing reflects love. Generosity is one of the most visible fruits of genuine love. Sharing builds unity. It strengthens the church and the community.

Sharing honors God, it's a sacrifice that pleases him. And sharing blesses both parties. It refreshes both the giver and the receiver. Ain't that the truth? So sharing is not just a kind act. It's a spiritual practice that reflects the heart of God. When we share, we imitate Jesus who gave us all he had just for us.

There's a thought. If anyone has material possessions and sees a, uh, sees a brother or a sister in need, but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? That's the final thought for today in John one. One John three in verse 17. Let us be people who've, whose lives are marked by open hands, open homes, and open hearts.

We can make a difference in a world that is dying to see a difference. We may be the only Bible that anyone ever reads, and that's a thought worth hanging onto. So as you contemplate the week ahead and you listen to the daily devotionals. Consider sharing those devotionals with others. More and more people are getting great comfort from them.

I get great comfort in writing and, and, um, and recording them. So until we share together next week, whatever offerings we have, and I think we're talking about spiritual adultery next week, that's a weighty topic. Spiritual adultery. Um, may you all have a blessed Sabbath day. May you all feel the presence of God.

May the word of God dwell in you richly. Let's pray. Dear Lord, father in heaven, as we close today's presentation, help us to share with love, compassion, and joy in our hearts. Help us to share, not for what we receive, but for what we give. We pray in Jesus' name, amen. God bless you all. See you next week on Church Without Walls.

Bye for now.