

Moses very correctly expressed it: "The Lord thy God, He it is that giveth thee power to get wealth." God gives us all things, strictly and truly, *He is the only donor in the universe.* He gives us possessions, or the opportunities to get them. It is He who gives us health and success and comforts, and makes our ventures successful and our business prosperous. "Every good and perfect gift cometh down from above." If God did not give, and continue to give, the brooks would soon dry and the rain soon cease and the sunshine soon fail and the flowers soon fade and the forest soon decay and the earth soon be barren, and want and ruin become universal. Now, He who hath loaded you with benefits commands you to give *freely* of your substance to Him. The possessions which He hath given you in stewardship, and for the right use of which He holds you responsible, you are to consecrate to His work and cause, and you cannot withhold from God what He hath instructed you to give, without contempt of duty, and sin.

4th. *Christian giving is an honored privilege.* Giving is a work most people perform as economically as possible, and too many regret the necessity of having to give at all. They rarely think that each should do something, and all do what they can, and having done their utmost, it should be considered a privilege. Is it not a privilege rather than an irksome toil to feed a starving man, or to rescue a drowning man, or to reclaim a fallen man, or to befriend a destitute man, or to bless a ruined man, or to save a dying man? And is it not a privilege, surpassing far, to aid the cause of truth, swell the trophies of the Cross, accelerate the spread of the Gospel, feed famishing millions, heal the world's curse, and raise the withered arm of paralyzed humanity to its healing Saviour? Such being the object of Christian benevolence, to give to it should be regarded as a precious privilege; not an opportunity to be allowed to pass by giving the barest trifle in a grudging spirit, but an opportunity we should eagerly embrace and always improve. And such should be our conviction of privilege that if no appeal was made to us we should voluntarily present our offerings to the Lord, and, if necessary, seek out the most worthy and deserving objects to relieve and assist. Giving in this day should be regarded as it was by the Macedonian believers when they besought Paul, with much entreaty, to accept their gifts.