

perienced in giving than in receiving ; for the disposition that prompts to the generous deed is capable of larger enjoyments. From the nature of things the selfish man cannot be truly happy. He lives for himself, labors and toils for himself : and the very act of receiving and hoarding exorciises a demoralizing influence over his spiritual and moral nature. He gradually kills out every manly and noble sentiment of his soul, and soon he begins to despise himself and suspect others. Honest in his dealings, truthful in his words and loud in his pretentions, he may persuade his neighbors that he is prosperous and contented, yet the constant yielding to an overpowering desire for gain destroys the subjective capacity of enjoyment. As well might you expect to find a summer's rose blooming and flourishing in the winter's frosts and snow as to find peace and satisfaction in the selfish soul. Gospel fruit cannot grow on such a soil.

The blessing is pronounced only upon them who give and who delight to give. One of the grand characteristics of Christ was the disposition to give. He freely gave His tears, His sympathy, His labors, His sufferings and death ; and He gives His Spirit to awaken, to sanctify and save His people. He gives pardon and peace, comfort and consolation, joy and gladness to all who accept Him as their Saviour.

That mind which was in Christ will also be in His people. To be Christians we must be like Christ in our views and feelings, in our habits and desires. "Freely ye have received, freely give." The man who gives cheerfully has a disposition which is Godlike in its character, and tendencies and possibilities. "God is love." "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." "The love of Christ constraineth us." Love is service. Love is an active, busy operative principle. It gives itself away. It finds pleasure in working and spending. Its happiness is in doing good. It feels right

because it acts right. What at first was a duty has become a pleasure. The great motive-power, the governing, guiding principle of life is love—love to God and love to man. This love is the fruit of God's love for us : "We love Him, because He first loved us."

Blessed then is the heart disposed to give, blessed the man who has such a heart, blessed because of the character that assimilates to God and secures the Lord's approval. Cursed is the heart demoralized by selfishness.

IT IS MORE BLESSED TO BE IN THE POSITION
TO GIVE.

Giving implies ability—implies the possession of that out of which we can give. We cannot give what we do not possess. Money is a talent and the capability of acquiring money is also a talent, entrusted by God. Blessed is he who has both the talent and the desire to use it properly. Poverty is not necessarily a blessing. If a man's poverty has come through idleness, extravagance or dissipation he cannot enjoy the blessing which he enjoys who has by persevering industry and economy accumulated that out of which he freely gives.

If a man is in a condition in which he can assist others he should be profoundly thankful. There are very few who cannot promote the interests of others and the cause of Christ. If we are not rich, we can do what we can and receive the blessing. "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not."

THERE IS THE BLESSED REWARD.

God has attached large and precious blessings to liberal giving, and fearful consequences to dishonest withholding ; and all "the promises of God are in Christ Jesus, yea, and in Him amen." We are assured that, "The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered also himself." "He that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. God loveth the cheerful