



References from *Reflections on Giving* **Giving is joy...**

Below please find references that were used in the *Giving is joy* VISION article, taken from the Reflections on Giving paper.

Page 6

As an example of giving for reasons beyond just fulfilling the law, David made a connection between giving and worship. Psalm 100 reads:

Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations. (Psalm 100)

From this Psalm we learn that when we come before the Lord, we are to bring our hearts and give our offering of praise and thanksgiving. We bless His holy name. Let's recognize that the desire to give is not born out of the desire to fulfill a law, but a desire to worship the greatness of God.

Page 15

Christian giving goes beyond money: We are to offer our time and talents as well. To the Romans, Paul gives this advice:

*Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, **with cheerfulness.*** (Romans 12:6-8 NKJV)

Page 23

Giving Is Joy: Christian giving is like a release valve on a life bursting with unstoppable happiness. If your faith is in God, and in the One He sent to ransom you from your sins, then you are welcome to glorious love and everlasting joy in the communion of the Holy Trinity. Nothing can rob you of this. Not poverty or persecution. Not demons or death. So do not let fear of losing happiness paralyze your generosity. Give in order to share life and joy with the weak. You will only increase your participation with the Redeemer in His jubilant triumph over the effects of sin in this world. Besides, God loves **a cheerful giver!**