

# The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 32

*Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passages that will be the basis of the sermon next week.*

**Topical Series: Wisdom in Work, Wealth  
and Decisions**

This Week's Key Passage: Proverbs 11:24-26

Sermon Date: May 11, 2008

## **Be generous with your wealth.**

Do you remember the words of Jesus (Acts 20:35) saying—"it is better to give than receive"? Why do you think it would be better to give a gift than to receive one?

What does the act of giving mean to you? Is it an obligation? When someone at Christmas time gives you a gift, do you feel compelled to run out and buy them a gift of equal value in return? What does that say about our motivation for giving in that instance?

This week we are going to look at what Proverbs says about giving and being generous with what we have. You might say, "I'm not wealthy! How can I give when I can barely get by myself?" The Lord knows your situation and his Word guides us on that subject. Let's look together and see what the Scriptures have to say about the joy of generosity.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have.
2. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p><b>Key Text: Proverbs 11:24-26 NIV</b></p> <p>11:24 One man gives freely, yet gains even more;</p> <p>another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.</p> <p>11:25 A generous man will prosper;</p> <p>he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.</p> <p>11:26 People curse the man who hoards grain,</p> <p>but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>3:27 Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.</p> <p>3:28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow"—</p> <p>when you now have it with you.</p> <p>28:22 A stingy man is eager to get rich</p> <p>and is unaware that poverty awaits him.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **S**ins to avoid
- ◆ **P**romises to believe
- ◆ **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **C**ommands to obey
- ◆ **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

4. Proverb 11:24a speaks about giving freely. What does “giving freely” mean? What motivates a person to give in such a way?
  
5. Proverbs 3:9-10 tells us to “honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops, then your barns will be filled to overflowing.” What are some ways we can honor the Lord with our wealth? In what ways might God fill someone’s “barns” who isn’t a farmer?
  
6. Proverb 11:24b and 28:22 both speak about one who holds back from giving (is stingy). Both say he will never prosper. Why are some possible reasons the stingy person might not prosper?
  
7. Proverbs 3:27 warns us not to withhold good from those who deserve it. What likely motivated each in the following examples? What lessons can we draw from them?
  - a. Examples of withholding good —
    - the Ammonites in Deuteronomy 23:3-4
  
    - the priest and Levite in Luke 10:30-35.
  - b. Examples of giving to one in need —
    - the widow in I Kings 17:9-16
  
    - the good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37.
  
8. Why are some motives for generosity which God presses upon his people in Deuteronomy 15:7-11?
  
9. How can generosity produce joy rather than feelings of being put upon with an unpleasant burden? Consider 2 Corinthians 8:11-12 and 9:6-8.
  
10. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life?

**Memory Verse**

**Proverbs 11:24**

<sup>11:24</sup> One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

This week we have been looking at giving and sharing what we have with those in need. On the surface, giving is the sharing of possessions, wealth and income with others. However, sharing things is also a way of sharing of your self. It can even be an act of love to God.

The Christian sees God himself as his example in giving. God gave us life, the gift of love, and he gave us salvation through giving his one and only Son, Jesus. The model for all giving is the heart of God. In his love he gave his one and only Son so that we might have eternal life in him. (John 3:16)

Wouldn't you like to receive God's gift of eternal life? Confess to God that your sin brings death and judgment. You have gone your own way without acknowledging him. Ask Jesus to reign and rule as rightful Lord of your life. Ask him to take you to be his own so his death to sin will be your death and his risen life your new life—Christ in you, the hope of glory!

When you find Christ in this way, find other Christian believers to fellowship with and to be accountable with in your walk with the Lord. Enjoy the fellowship of giving and receiving you were created for!

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon and can be picked up from the table at the back of the sanctuary and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>.*

*Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact **studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com***

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