



**PART SIX:
GIVING AND RECEIVING**

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GIVING AND RECEIVING

We have all heard the words, “What goes around comes around.” But have you ever heard of it being associated with favors from God?

One of the most “preached about” words is the word tithe. First of all, let me draw to your attention one small fact:

Tithing is not a four letter word. Giving precedes receiving...just like the boomerang has to be thrown before it can find its way back to you.

Tithing is giving and it does not have to be money. Yes, it can be money, or the tithing of your time, talents, advice, counsel or anything required by another. In all cases the good passed out will find its way back to you, but not necessarily as money. It may come back as a new job, an increase in pay or any other thing that you may require at the time.

Let me share two examples of how “the Universe” responded to my giving.

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THE FIRST EXPERIENCE

I had been tithing for a few years now and found that we always seemed to have enough to make ends meet, although there may not have been that much left over when the next payday rolled around.

One day my beloved son came to me with a problem which to him was very serious. David loved skateboarding, it was his only means of transportation and he was very good at it. "Dad," he said, "I need your help. My old skateboard is pretty well worn out and I sure would like to have a new one."

The tone of his voice registered sadness and the look on his face confirmed it. He passed me the board and I examined it carefully. It was more than worn out it was downright dangerous. This was not the kind of news that I was glad to hear because it was still a long way till payday and I didn't have that much money left from the last pay.

I asked David if he would mind waiting until Saturday morning and at that time we would go together to the skateboard shop of his choice. David was delighted at the prospect and chose to go the skateboard shop with the greatest selection which was about 35 miles away.

Living up to my promise Dave and I drove to the skateboard shop early on Saturday morning. I told him to go inside and look at everything that was there and then come back out and get me when he had made a decision as to what he would like to have. When David entered the store I pulled out my wallet and carefully counted the contents. I had just over \$120 to do us till payday and that was not very much.

About a half an hour later David reappeared with a big smile on his face.

"Dad, come and see what I found." I followed him into the store and he proceeded to show me two or three different skateboards and two or three different sets of wheels that could be mounted on them. After looking at all of this I turned to him and said: "You pick out the ones that you like the best and ask the store clerk to tell you exactly how much it will come to." David smiled and made his selection. When the clerk returned with the price I was startled. The bill came to just under \$120.

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My heart went out to David so I told the clerk to wrap it up for him and I paid the bill. We left that store as a very happy son and a rather nervous father. I wasn't so much concerned with the money situation as I was with what my wife would have to say about this.

The next day when I picked up the mail there was an unexpected letter from my parents. When I opened it up and took a peek I almost fell over ... for there inside was a check for \$1,200 ... ten times what I had paid for David's skateboard.

Conclusion: When you give from your heart instead of from your head the boomerang works well indeed.

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THE SECOND EXPERIENCE

A few years later I was working for a plastic contact lens company. The work was challenging but I gave it my best and always tried to do things the way my boss wanted them done as opposed to how I would like to have done.

Around that time, I was given a message that it was time for me to start paying the full amount of the tithe. I had been paying 10% of my take-home pay for a number of years and now that my annual salary was \$27,000 a year I was contributing a good slice of money to the church each week. Being an accountant it took me no time flat to figure out that paying 10% of my *gross* pay instead of 10% of my take-home pay was a substantial amount of money. At first I wasn't sure I could do it, but then finally decided I would.

Shortly after that my boss called me into the office for private discussion. With the door closed so that no one else could hear, he announced to me that it would be a good idea if I started to look for another job. It seems that top management had decided to close the contact lens operation because we could no longer meet the price of the competition. He assured me that I would receive the very highest of a recommendation in a letter of reference.

When I left his office I went straight to my own office, closed the door and phoned my wife. After receiving the information, she went to work looking through the newspaper while I finished the day's work.

When I got home that evening my wife had already gone through the newspaper and highlighted one ad in particular which she thought was very appropriate for me. It seems that the local Indian reserve was recruiting a general manager for their soon-to-be opened Business Development Center. After studying the ad, I realized that my background dovetailed everything that they were looking for. Not only that, but they were offering a very generous \$35,000 a year starting salary. I promptly applied and was called in for an interview.

The interview went very well indeed and ended with them asking me if I had any questions for them. I said, "Yes I do. What is it exactly that you are looking for?"

"You!"...came the surprising response. "We have only one problem" she continued. "We were expecting to hire a native person and start them at \$35,000 a year. As you probably know a native person working on the reserve does not have to pay income tax on their salary. You are a non-native person and we don't think

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it's fair that you would have to pay income tax on \$35,000 a year, so we are prepared to offer you a starting salary of \$40,000 a year.

I almost fell off the chair. I had just gone from \$27,000 a year to \$40,000 a year. That was a 50% increase in wages. Switching from tithing 10% of take-home pay to 10% of gross pay had paid off big time, not to mention the fact that I did not lose a day's work when the plant closed.

I learned three very important lessons out of that experience:

First: "You cannot out-give God."

Second: "Where God guides God provides".

Third: "An opportunity to give is an opportunity to receive."

Amen!

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AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

I just remembered!

Within this past week a lady walked past me and asked for money. My first reaction was a lie... "I don't have any."

A moment or two later, after talk, prayer, and thought, I ran after the woman and gave her two \$2 bills. I could have given a lot more. Within the past few days I earned two \$20 bills from (God) via my neighbor Marg.

Wow! Thank you God!! Truly, **"An opportunity to give is an opportunity to receive."**