



Thursday Thought

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“Kicked in the Teeth”

Thursday, January 5, 2016

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” – Winston Churchill

Verse for the week: Luke 6:38 (NLT) “38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”

The phone calls, emails, people standing on the street corner with signs, letters, and commercials, all calling us to give, seem to be incessant. Many of us feel guilty if we don't give, while others seem to have become hardened and insensitive after having been burned by one or more scams or unappreciative people. We hear of CEOs of charitable organizations making lots of money, and people who beg on street corners driving fancy cars. We have “grandchildren” that aren't even our grandchildren calling us to help them out. I heard a person say “*I give, and I give, and I give, and what do I get in return? I get kicked in the teeth.*” Sadly, this happens sometimes. But does that mean we should stop giving? Absolutely not! Psychologists say that generous people are happier people and the Bible says in Proverbs 11:25 (NLT) “**The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.**”

Here are some steps to help us give in such a way that we will receive the biggest joy.

1. **Give first** – When you receive your paycheck, give first. Too often we wait until after we've spent it all, and then determine what to give away. By then it's too late. The money is gone. Even the Bible recommends we do this in Proverbs 3:9-10. When you give first, you probably won't even miss it.
2. **Use wisdom** – There are numerous agencies that can assist. Educate yourself on reputable charities. Also, find out which organizations give the greatest percentage of what they receive in order to make a difference.
3. **Realize that you have done your part** – Ed Cole said “After giving something to God, you are no longer accountable for it. Your blessing is based on your giving, not on what others do with the gift.”
4. **Be Thankful** – A thankful heart will guard against bitterness even if we do “get kicked in the teeth.”

Questions to ask yourself: What have you given away recently?

1 <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/out-the-darkness/201501/happiness-comes-giving-not-buying-and-having>