

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Douglas' mother, Mr. and Mrs. Hadley, Mrs. Kelly Hall, Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson, Mrs. Lowery, Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Siota, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website:
www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com.
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

Oak Grove Church of Christ Bulletin

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God Gives

By Derek Long

God's love is demonstrated to us by the giving of His Son for our sins. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Love can be displayed by giving to others and putting their interest before our own. The Bible mentions several things God gives to us and speaks of the nature of His giving.

How does God give things to us?

- God gives to us liberally (James 1:5). James 1:5 speaks about our need to ask God for wisdom and reminds us God will give us wisdom liberally if we ask Him in faith (James 1:6-8). God does not give wisdom in a small quantity but gives us wisdom liberally. 2 Peter 1:3 reminds us God, "has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness." God has given us all the instructions we need regarding how to live a life which is pleasing and acceptable in His sight. 1 Corinthians 2 reminds us the wisdom of God is something we would be unaware of without Him revealing it to us (vs. 7-9). 1 Corinthians 2:10 tells us, "But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all

things, yes, the deep things of God.” God has revealed to us His mind as the apostles and prophets were inspired and recorded His will for us. 1 Corinthians 2:12 says, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.” God gave us His revelation freely. God truly is liberal in His giving. God is not just liberal in giving us wisdom but is liberal in other areas of His giving. God gives us grace liberally or abundantly. Romans 5:20-21 speaks about how, “where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.” God’s grace is not given to us in such limited quantity it is incapable of dealing adequately with our sins. John 1:16 says, “And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.” The concept of “grace for grace” is almost like grace upon grace. God’s liberality in giving should motivate us to be liberal in our giving towards others. 2 Corinthians 8 speaks of the liberality of the churches of Macedonia in their giving for the Judean saints. The saints were suffering but were willing to give liberally and more than expected. 2 Corinthians 8:2 says, “that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.” Do we give as God gives and as these brethren in Macedonia gave? Are we stingy in our service toward God or are we always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)? Remember what Romans 12:8 says about the person who gives, “he who gives, with liberality.”

- God gives without reproach (James 1:5). God is willing to give us wisdom without coming down upon us with reproach for needing such wisdom. God wants us to ask for wisdom

and is willing to give such to us. God does not give us something and hold it against us. God does not give us something so He has the ability to say something bad about us. If we are not careful, we give to others with reproach. Do we give to someone so they are in our debt? Do we give to others so we can remind them of what we did in a rebuking manner? Do we give to others so we can hold it against them in the future? Let’s seek to imitate God’s example and give without reproach (Ephesians 5:1).

- God gives cheerfully. God expects us to be cheerful givers (2 Corinthians 9:7). If our actions are to be a reflection of God’s character, He must give cheerfully as well.
- God gives good things. Matthew 7:11 says, “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!” God always gives us what is in our best interest. He does not give us things which would harm us.
- God gives the best. Romans 8:32 says, “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” God gave the best sacrifice imaginable for our sin - His own Son. If God was willing to give such a great gift, we should rest assured He is for us being saved.

God gives in such a way which manifests His love toward us. Let us give in such a way toward God and others which manifests our love toward them.