> But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.
> — *1 Chronicles 29:14*

Book: Old Testament / 1 Chronicles
Topics: giving, dependence, money

Interpretation:
The *book of 1 Chronicles* is found in the *Old Testament* and tells the story of the people of Israel, from the death of *King Saul* to the reign of *King David*. In chapter 29, King David is gathering funds and resources to build God's temple, a project that had been entrusted to his son, *King Solomon*. As he does so, David offers a prayer in the presence of all the people in which he acknowledges the greatness and sovereignty of God.

David's Humility

1 Chronicles 29:14 is an expression of humility and gratitude on the part of King David. In this verse, David acknowledges that everything they have is from the hand of God and therefore he has no way to offer Him anything other than his own will. This is a humble acknowledgement that we are small in the face of God's greatness and that everything we have is a gift from Him.

Attitude of the Heart

This verse also reminds us that it is the attitude of our heart that ultimately matters. David focuses not on how much he gives, but on the disposition of his heart to give. He gives willingly, recognizing that all he has is given to him by God and that therefore all he has should be used to glorify Him. This attitude encourages us to reflect on our own attitude toward giving and consider how we can give more generously and with a more grateful heart.

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> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.
> — *1 Corinthians 13:3*

Book: New Testament / 1 Corinthians
Topics: giving, body, love, poverty, pride, suffering

Interpretation:
The verse in *1 Corinthians 13:3* reminds us that no matter how many good deeds we do, if we do not do them out of love, everything we do will be in vain.

How can this verse help us?

This Bible verse helps us remember how important love is. In a society that tends to value works, status, and appearances more, *1 Corinthians 13:3* reminds us that love is the most important thing. We can engage in many noble deeds and make great sacrifices, but if we do not have love, everything we do will be in vain.

Moreover, this Bible verse helps us think about our motives. Why do we do what we do? What is our motivation? Are we doing it out of love or for some less noble reason? Remembering the value of love can motivate us to do things for the right reasons.

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> For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.
> — *2 Corinthians 8:12*

Book: New Testament / 2 Corinthians
Topics: giving, encouragement, generosity

Interpretation:
The Second Epistle to the Corinthians was written by the Apostle *Paul*, who sent it to believers living in the city of Corinth. In this book, Paul touches on topics related to the Christian life, and one of them is

generosity. In particular, *2 Corinthians 8:12* tells us about the willingness to give.

The meaning of the verse

In this verse, Paul tells us that it is not the amount we give that is important, but our attitude toward giving. Although the intentions of our hearts are sometimes not reflected in what we bring to God, the Lord always sees our willingness and desire to give. Moreover, we cannot give what we do not have. Our intention is valuable if we have the will to give, even if what we give is small.

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> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.
> *— 2 Corinthians 9:10*

Book: New Testament / 2 Corinthians
Topics: giving, bread, food, generosity, harvest, righteousness

Interpretation:
The Bible verse in *2 Corinthians 9:10* tells us about the importance of generosity and what happens when we help others. The Apostle *Paul* teaches us how God rewards those who give without expecting anything in return.

Now he who supplies seed to the sower

The first thing this verse teaches us is that God is a generous giver. God calls us to be generous to others and to share what we have with those in need. When we give seed to the sower or bread to the eater, we are responding to God's call to be His hands and feet in this world and help meet the needs of others.

Giving seed to the sower means helping those who work in the fields. Give them resources so they can plant the ground and reap the harvest. This is a way to help improve their quality of life by providing a livelihood for them and their families. This expression can be taken as a metaphor that applies to many areas of human activity.

And bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed

The second important point of this verse is that God rewards generosity. When we give, we do not lose, but gain blessings. When we do what is right, that is, we help those in need, God rewards us. God will grant and multiply our sowing, which means that those who give will see an increase in what they possess.

And will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness

When we are generous to others, we demonstrate our faith through our actions. This is the kind of justice that this verse is talking about. When we demonstrate our faith through our actions, we reap spiritual fruits. These fruits are blessings that will appear in our lives.

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> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.
> *— 2 Corinthians 9:11*

Book: New Testament / 2 Corinthians
Topics: giving, blessing, generosity, gratitude

Interpretation:
2 Corinthians 9:11 is a call to generosity and gratitude. In it, the Apostle *Paul* encourages the Corinthians to be rich in everything so that they can give generously and thereby bring gratitude to God.

Generosity is an important virtue that has always been valued in the Christian community. When we give to others, we not only help meet their material needs, but we also show them love and compassion. Moreover, as the verse says, our generosity produces thanksgiving to God, which means that through our good deeds we can glorify God and show our faith in Him.

However, it can sometimes be difficult to be generous, especially when our own needs are not fully met. It is important to remember that as Christians, we are called to trust God and rely on Him for all our needs. By being generous, we show our faith in His care and His ability to take care of us.

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> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.
> *— 2 Corinthians 9:6*

Book: New Testament / 2 Corinthians
Topics: giving, generosity, harvest

Interpretation:
In this passage from *Paul's* Second Epistle to the Corinthians, we are presented with a teaching on generosity. In *2 Corinthians 9:6*, Paul tells us that he who sows sparingly will reap a small harvest, but he who sows bountifully will reap a larger harvest.

Explaining the meaning of the verse

It is important to note that this passage does not refer exclusively to farming or sowing seeds, but rather has a deeper meaning regarding how we live our lives. When it comes to generosity, the word *"sowing"* is used metaphorically, referring to our actions and the choices we make in our daily lives. In other words, our daily actions are the seeds we sow, and they can produce both positive and negative results.

Generosity in everyday life

Paul's teaching speaks of the importance of generosity. The idea is that when we are generous to others, giving freely and lovingly, our actions can have a positive impact on others and on our own lives. In doing so, we *"sow"* into the world to reap the benefits that generosity can bring.

Through our generosity, we can help others, support those in need, and do good. Just as a seed planted in a field grows and expands, our generous actions can also expand, spreading to people and communities and having a significant impact.

The importance of balance

It is important to emphasize that this teaching should not be misconstrued as an invitation to give away goods and resources without thinking about ourselves. Life is a balance between giving and

receiving. If we simply give away everything we have without thinking about our own well-being, we can exhaust ourselves physically and emotionally. It is important to look after our own interests while remaining generous to others.

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> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
> *— 2 Corinthians 9:7*

Book: New Testament / 2 Corinthians
Topics: giving, generosity, heart, joy

Interpretation:
The book of 2 Corinthians is filled with many profound lessons about Christian faith and relationships. In *chapter 9*, the apostle *Paul* talks about collecting money for the needy in Jerusalem. So what does *verse 7* mean?

The importance of giving from the heart

The first part of the verse, *“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give,”* shows us that giving money should be a personal decision. Giving should not be done out of a sense of obligation or sadness. Instead, the offerings should come from a free and joyful heart. This approach shows that giving money to the church or to less fortunate people is not just a religious duty, but also a way to show love for one’s neighbor and for God.

There is nothing wrong with wanting to give money to the church or to charity. But when this desire becomes an obligation, it loses its spiritual meaning. On the contrary, when we give what we have to offer, we do so with joy. Our generosity becomes an act of love for those who benefit from our help.

God loves a cheerful giver

The second part of *2 Corinthians 9:7* reinforces the above idea. God loves cheerful givers: those who give more than is asked of them and who give with a positive attitude. This statement is important because it reminds us that our act of giving affects not only the people who receive it, but also our own lives. When we give cheerfully, we receive blessings from God that we cannot even imagine.

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> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
> *— 2 Corinthians 9:8*

Book: New Testament / 2 Corinthians
Topics: giving, blessing, goodness, receiving, work, worrying

Interpretation:
2 Corinthians 9:8 is found in *Paul's* Second Epistle to the Corinthians. This letter was written around 55-56 CE and sent to the Corinthian church in Greece. In this verse, Paul encourages the Corinthians to raise a collection for the poor Christians in Jerusalem.

Interpretation

In this verse, Paul points to the goodness of God that gives believers the grace they need to do good works. God's grace is not just a gift, but a manifestation of His power. Paul says that God can give grace in abundance, and that believers should trust Him to give them everything they need to do good works.

The grace of God

The grace of God is something we all need in our Christian lives. We must trust God to give us everything we need to do good works. We must realize that our salvation does not depend on our works but on the sacrifice *of Christ* on the cross, but this does not mean that we should stop doing good.

When we depend on God for the energy and resources to do good, we can do things that we would not be able to do otherwise. We must trust God and ask Him for help when we face situations that seem insurmountable. We must ask the Lord to strengthen us and give us the tools we need to do His work.

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> John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”
> — *Luke 3:11*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: giving, clothing, food, materialism, neighbor, poverty

Interpretation:
The Gospel of Luke introduces us to the story of *John the Baptist*, who called the multitudes to repent of their sins and be baptized in the Jordan River. In this context, *verse 3:11* is an expression of the Christian ethic, which focuses on helping and being generous to those who are most in need.

The importance of sharing

John the Baptist’s call for help and fellowship should not be underestimated or ignored. In this verse, we are reminded that it is our responsibility to share with those in need. Sharing is more than just giving alms or doing charity, it is essentially an attitude we should adopt towards those who are less fortunate. It is an expression of love and compassion for our fellow man.

In today’s society, we often tend to focus on our own affairs and concerns. However, John the Baptist’s call reminds us that community and the well-being of others are equally important, and we should value them equally. It is therefore vital to consider everything we can offer to society, from skills and resources to simple acts of caring and attention.

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> Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.
> — *Luke 6:30*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: giving, debt, generosity

Interpretation:

In *Luke 6:30*, *Jesus* calls us to be generous to those who ask us for something, even if it is our own possessions, without expecting anything in return.

We must remember that Jesus is not only talking about material objects, but about everything we have that someone might need, whether it is our attention, emotional support, or any other form of help we can give.

Why is it important to give without expecting anything in return? The answer is simple: unlimited generosity promotes reciprocity and brotherly love. By giving from the heart, we help create a more cohesive community based on solidarity and mutual respect.

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> Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
> *— Luke 6:38*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: giving, generosity, receiving, reward

Interpretation:
Luke 6:38 teaches us the importance of giving. It tells us that when we give to others, we receive the same. This teaching can be applied to many areas of our lives, both material and spiritual.

What does it mean to give according to the verse

Giving involves not only giving something material, like money or food, but also giving of our time, energy, and abilities for the benefit of others. The good measure that the verse speaks of, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, means that we are to give generously and with a thankful heart.

How can this verse help us?

This verse reminds us that when we give, we sow seeds that will multiply into blessings for ourselves and those we help. It also encourages us to be generous and to think about the well-being of others,

rather than focusing only on ourselves.

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> “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”
> — *Malachi 3:10*

Book: Old Testament / Malachi
Topics: giving, blessing, food, harvest

Interpretation:
Tithing, or giving 10% of one's income to the church or to the poor, has been a common practice among believers since biblical times. First of all, this verse reminds us of the importance of obedience and trust in God. By tithing, we demonstrate our faith in Him and His ability to provide for our needs.

In addition, we help finance the church's burdens, such as helping the poor and maintaining its facilities, and in this way, we fulfill our Christian responsibility to help our brothers and sisters.

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> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.
> — *Matthew 10:8*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: giving, healing, health, receiving, sickness

Interpretation:

Matthew 10:8 is a verse found in the context of Jesus calling His disciples to go and preach and perform miracles in His name. In this verse, Jesus gives them specific instructions on what they are to do during their mission. He tells them to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons. Furthermore, it reminds them that they have received the gift of God's grace and are to give it generously.

Healing and miracles are central themes in the Gospels. Through them, Jesus demonstrated his power and divinity to those who followed him, as well as proclaimed the Kingdom of God. The fact that Jesus asks his disciples to do the same indicates that the mission he has given them is as important as his own.

Exorcism is a recurring theme in the Bible. Several times in the New Testament, people are described as being possessed by demons or evil spirits, who are cast out by Jesus or his disciples. In the context of Matthew 10:8, Jesus tells his disciples that they also have the power to cast out demons. This suggests that while evil is real, God's power is much greater and can overcome it.

Another thing that stands out in this verse is the **importance of giving grace** to what we have received from God. God's love and grace are free and should not be commercialized. This is often forgotten in the modern church, where sometimes more emphasis is placed on the monetary aspects than the spiritual ones.

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> Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."
>
> *— Matthew 19:21*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: giving, Blameless, following, heaven, Jesus, materialism

Interpretation:
Matthew 19:21 is one *of Jesus'* most famous teachings. Here, Jesus is addressing a rich young ruler who asks Him what he needs to do to gain eternal life. Jesus tells him to keep the commandments, but then makes a shocking statement.

Jesus tells the rich young ruler that if he really wants to be perfect, he must get rid of all his material possessions and follow Him. This may seem like a lot, but it's important to remember that Jesus is not telling us all to do the same thing. Instead, He is addressing a man who was very attached to his possessions and giving him a personalized lesson on what he needs to do to follow Jesus.

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> So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.
> — *Matthew 6:2*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: giving, humility, reward

Interpretation:
Almsgiving is one way Christians can share what they have with those who need it most. In this verse, *Jesus* gives us an important warning about how we should give: not in a showy way to gain recognition from others.

If we look closely, we can find some important reflections and teachings about the meaning of almsgiving and how we can apply it in our lives.

The intentions behind almsgiving

It is natural to want recognition for our efforts, and it is easy to be tempted to do everything we can to let others know what we have done. But Jesus encourages us to think deeply about our intentions when we give. If it is simply to gain admiration from others, then we are not giving truly charitably. Almsgiving should be an act of genuine love and generosity, without the expectation of anything in return.

Hypocrisy and the trumpet blowing

Jesus uses a powerful image in this verse, comparing hypocrites to those who blow a trumpet before giving alms. Those who do this do so to attract attention to themselves and gain recognition for their "act of charity," but in reality, this type of almsgiving is selfish and does not help anyone.

In contrast, Jesus encourages us to give in secret, without expecting anything in return. In this way, our almsgiving can be truly generous and compassionate.

Our reward

Finally, Jesus tells us that those who flaunt their almsgiving have already received their reward. That is, we cannot expect the recognition and gratitude of others as our only reward.

Instead, we must trust that God knows what we do in secret and that He will reward us accordingly. This means that the true reward for our almsgiving is not the admiration of others, but the satisfaction of having helped someone in need and God's reward.

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> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
> — *Matthew 6:3-4*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: giving, Father, reward

Interpretation:
The Bible passage *Matthew 6:3-4* touches on an important topic in the Christian life: almsgiving. Almsgiving refers to the act of giving something to someone in need, whether it be money, food, clothing, or other things. In these verses, *Jesus* teaches that we should give alms without seeking recognition or applause.

Don’t do It out of vanity

Vanity and the desire for recognition are common temptations for us as humans, especially when we do something good. We love it when others see what we do and recognize us for it. However, when it comes to almsgiving, Jesus teaches us that we should not seek the glory of others.

This doesn’t mean that we can’t talk about our charitable acts or share our experiences to motivate others to do the same. Instead, we should do so with a humble heart, recognizing that our actions are

a call to charity, not a way to gain glory or recognition.

The importance of anonymity

One of the most important lessons from *Matthew 6:3-4* is the importance of anonymity in our acts of charity. When we give alms, we should do so discreetly, without drawing anyone's attention.

That is, we should avoid showing that we are giving, how we are giving it, or to whom we are giving it. Keeping our giving anonymous helps us avoid seeking validation from others and reminds us that our actions are a form of service.

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> Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”
> — *Nehemiah 8:10*

Book: Old Testament / Nehemiah
Topics: giving, food, joy

Interpretation:
This verse speaks of the rebuilding of the temple and the walls of Jerusalem and the people of Israel gathering to hear the Law of God, and Nehemiah encourages them by saying that *“the joy of the Lord is our strength.”* This statement tells us that the source of our strength is not in ourselves, but in the joy we find in God.

In our daily lives, we can apply this verse by always remembering that the joy of God is our strength. When we are sad or discouraged, we can turn to God and find in Him the strength we need to overcome any situation. Likewise, when we celebrate accomplishments and blessings, we should remember that God is the author of all good things and that our joy in Him is the source of our true happiness.

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translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.
> — *Proverbs 11:25*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: giving, food, generosity, selfishness

Interpretation:
The Book of Proverbs is a book of wisdom, containing advice for daily living, justice, and morality. Chapter 11:25 teaches a doctrine of generosity and prosperity, calling us to share with others so that we too can have abundance.

Generosity as a path to prosperity

The central idea of ??this verse is that generosity brings abundance and blessing. When we give to others from a pure heart, we not only do good, but we also sow the seeds of benefit for ourselves.

The term “generous soul” refers to a person who is generous with his or her kindness to others. The “prosperity” of such a person means that he or she will live in abundance – materially, emotionally, and spiritually.

Sharing the feast

The second aspect of this verse from *Proverbs 11:25* is the idea that “whoever feeds others will also be fed himself or herself.” The term “feed” refers to the satisfaction of a specific need, whether physical (e.g. hunger) or emotional (e.g. sadness).

When we are able to meet the needs of others, we contribute to their happiness and well-being. But in turn, this generous act benefits us as well, since the act of giving and receiving is mutual.

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> A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.
> — *Proverbs 18:16*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: giving, reward

Interpretation:
In the context in which this proverb is found, it can be interpreted that the **“person”** in question is someone who has special skills and talents to perform a certain job or task. **“The great”** could be leaders, bosses, or influential people in a certain field.

So, this verse tells us that the gifts a man can offer to these important people can help open up opportunities or avenues that will lead him to their presence, which can be beneficial to his career or to your personal interests.

It is important to note that gifts should not be viewed as a form of bribery or manipulation, but rather as a token of **appreciation or gratitude**. Therefore, gifts should be chosen carefully, according to the tastes and preferences of the person to whom they will be given, and without affecting our moral or ethical integrity.

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> All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.
> *— Proverbs 21:26*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: giving, desires, greed, materialism

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is one of the most well-known and beloved books in the Bible. Within it, we can find many valuable teachings that help us understand the wisdom and justice that underlie biblical principles. *Proverbs 21:26* is no exception, offering us reflections on greed and justice.

A greedy man is greedy all day long

The verse begins by talking about a greedy man who is eager to accumulate material wealth and is willing to do anything to achieve this goal. The text says that this man covets something all day long, which suggests that he has no rest in his quest to achieve more wealth. This obsession with accumulating material goods can become a real form of slavery.

The concept of greed is not new in the Bible. In *the New Testament*, we find *Jesus* teaching us the futility of accumulating material wealth and how these things distract us from what is truly important. In *Matthew 6:24, Jesus* says, *“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”*

The righteous give without holding back his hand

On the other hand, the verse tells us about the righteous. This person is not selfish or greedy. Instead, their attitude toward money and possessions is different. The verse says that the righteous give without holding back his hand, which suggests that this person is willing to help others and share what he has.

This unselfish attitude toward money and possessions is also what Jesus recommended for us in the New Testament. In *Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus* tells us that we should focus on spiritual riches, not material ones. He says: *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

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> Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.
>
> — *Proverbs 3:27*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: giving, debt, honesty

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is a treasure trove of wisdom, offering practical advice to help us in our daily lives. *Proverbs 3:27* tells us not to refuse to help those in need, especially if we have the means to do so. The teaching of this verse is simple but important: as humans, we should be generous and supportive of others.

Don’t refuse to do good

The commandment in *Proverbs 3:27* calls us to take the initiative to help others and to do good at all times. We should be attentive to the needs of others and, if we have the opportunity, to help them without rejecting them.

Generosity and solidarity are not only Christian virtues, but also necessary conditions for harmonious coexistence and building a more just society.

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> Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.
> *— Proverbs 3:9*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: giving, harvest, money, sacrifice

Interpretation:
Proverbs 3:9 calls us to honor the Lord with all our possessions and the firstfruits of all our fruits. But why is this so important?

First, we must understand that everything we have, including our possessions and property, comes from God. He is the Creator of all things and has blessed us with them so that we can enjoy them and use them for His glory.

However, we often cling to our possessions and treat them as our own, instead of recognizing *that they are gifts from God*. When we honor the Lord with our possessions, we acknowledge His authority, sovereignty, and goodness. We are symbolically saying, *“Lord, all that I have is Yours.”*

What does it mean to give the firstfruits of our fruits?

This verse also calls us to bring the firstfruits of all our produce to the Lord. The word “firstfruits” refers to the first portion of our income or harvest that was offered to God as a sacrifice. This was done in recognition that everything we have comes from Him.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.
> — *Proverbs 31:9*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: giving, poverty, righteousness, speaking, widows

Interpretation:
Proverbs 31:9 calls us to act justly and to champion the cause of the poor and needy. This verse is a call to action for the Christian community, reminding us that God expects us to help not only the more fortunate but also the less fortunate.

The word "poor" in the original Hebrew means "one in need," and "needy" refers to someone in extreme poverty, lacking resources, and in dire need of assistance.

Judge with justice

Judgment with justice involves making decisions based on facts, not personal bias. It is important not to judge others by their appearance, ethnicity, gender, or any other factor that might obscure a person's true situation. A just judge is one who considers all the evidence before making a decision and seeks the truth before jumping to hasty conclusions.

Championing the cause of the poor

The idea of ??championing the needy permeates the Bible. Christians are called to be the voice of the voiceless and to defend their right to justice and equal treatment before the law. We must be those who recognize the needs of the poor and are willing to do something for them.

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> The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously.
> — *Psalm 37:21*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: giving, debt, money, righteousness

Interpretation:
Psalm 37 is a hymn to trust in God and the proper attitude of believers in adversity. This beautiful verse calls believers to trust in God and not be disturbed by the envious and unjust. In verse 21, the psalmist explains the difference between the wicked and the righteous.

The wicked borrow and do not repay

The first contrast the psalmist presents is between the wicked and the righteous in the economic sphere. The wicked borrow without intending to repay, which implies a lack of ethics and responsibility. This reflects the wicked's selfish and careless attitude toward others.

The theme of financial responsibility is recurring throughout the Bible. God desires His children to be prudent and generous with their material resources. The importance of financial responsibility is evident in passages such as *Luke 12:15*, which states, *"Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'"*

The righteous are merciful and giving

On the other hand, the righteous are considered merciful and generous. A righteous person cares for others and shares what they have without expecting anything in return. Such behavior reflects the love and kindness that should characterize believers.

In *2 Corinthians 9:7*, we are reminded, *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* This means that everyone should give according to their ability, not out of obligation or compulsion.

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> Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
> *— Psalm 37:4*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: giving, heart, seeking

Interpretation:
Psalm 37 is a hymn of trust in God, calling God's people not to worry about the wicked who temporarily prosper in this world, but to focus on God and His eternal justice. This psalm declares that

whoever delights in the Lord will be abundantly blessed.

Take delight in the Lord

This verse begins with the command: "Take delight in the Lord." In other words, we are told to delight in the Lord, to find pleasure in His presence, and to let our joy flow from Him. This is not an optional suggestion, but a divine command. It's important to note that delighting in God is not an end in itself, but rather leads to something more meaningful and rewarding in our lives.

When we delight in God, we recognize His greatness and His love for us. We realize that all we have belongs to Him, and that all we are belongs to Him. Enjoying God allows us to see our lives and circumstances through the eyes of God's love, opening us to a transforming perspective.

And He will give you the desires of your heart

In the second part of verse 4, God promises to fulfill our requests. However, this promise does not mean that God will give us everything we desire at His own whim. On the contrary, it means that our desires will be transformed according to His will, and our prayers will be heard according to His divine plan.

It is important to emphasize that petitions uttered in accordance with His will are the key to receiving what we ask for in prayer. We must not seek our own selfish interests, but above all *the Kingdom of God* and His righteousness. If our petitions are aimed at fulfilling His plan, we can be confident that He will fulfill them.

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