

**Surrender to Him
in gratitude
obey Him in love**



*Whoever is faithful
in a very little is faithful
also in much. – Luke 16:10*



Gratitude & **GIVING**

A man positioned himself every day on a street corner where a deli was located, and he solicited money from drivers rounding the corner. Daily, the deli owner came out with a boxed-up lunch to give the fellow. The man always accepted it.

One day the restaurant owner came out with two carry-out boxes. He gave both to the man, and told him that one was for a customer two blocks away. His delivery boy was unavailable, and he asked the man to take the lunch a short walk down the street.

Pulling himself up to his full height, the recipient of the deli owner's daily generosity said, "I solicit funds here. I don't run errands."

What part does gratitude play in your giving? Do your offerings to God express your thankfulness for his daily provision? Does your overall plan for giving to support the church of the Lord Jesus Christ reflect your gratitude for his invaluable gift on the cross?

Many people have no plan of giving. They give more when they have extra, or when they feel inspired by a worship service, or when they experience trouble and believe they may have shortchanged God. Some people give less when bills are higher or when they become irregular in church.

But if you're truly grateful, your giving won't take a holiday, and it won't slack off. It will grow, as you realize more, day by day, how much your Savior has done for you.

Surrender to Him in gratitude; obey Him in love



*Whoever is faithful
in a very little is faithful
also in much. – Luke 16:10*



Surrender & **GIVING**

The U.S. Army developed recruiting ads showing a lone, seemingly self-sufficient soldier, accompanied by the slogan, “An Army of one.” It was a curious motto for an organization whose success was built on teamwork.

Furthermore, everyone who signs up surrenders himself to obey his commanding officers, not operate on his own.

In the first century, Christians realized that no believer or church was an army of one. They could accomplish far more together than individually. Besides, Jesus had given them as a unified group the command to evangelize the world.

In describing the mission of Christ as involving planting, watering and harvesting, Paul wrote, “We are laborers together with God.” We enter God’s army by surrendering to his supreme command. God expects us then to undertaking his mission through cooperation.

The Cooperative Program is a strategy of missions unifying the efforts of all Southern Baptists. Christians pray, give, and volunteer. Churches relay the call of Christ and do missions locally. Associations coordinate church efforts. State Conventions receive church gifts and undertake missions only achievable through cooperation. And the Southern Baptist Convention receives a portion of those same gifts and uses them to train ministers and send missionaries to extend the kingdom of God to all parts of the globe.

With more than 10,800 missionaries now representing Christ in the world, we are an army of 16 million Southern Baptists — acting as one!

**Surrender to Him
in gratitude;
obey Him in love**



*Whoever is faithful
in a very little is faithful
also in much. – Luke 16:10*



Obedience & **GIVING**

Some of us obey God when we think we are the subject of his special attention, but may become unfaithful when we are less aware of his gaze. Christian giving often declines when times are good and we stop thinking about our constant need of God's grace. But obedience in giving means a commitment to faithfulness and constancy.

A computer technician at a textile finishing company was responsible for the operation of all computers, printers and copiers in the plant. Frequent calls from the front office brought him from his rounds to fix a stubborn photocopier that almost daily jammed. When he arrived, however, the copier always seemed to work. Only when he was away did it malfunction. One day, the technician brought a photograph of himself, placed it in the copier, made an enlarged copy, and then taped the picture to the inside of the copier lid. For whatever reason, the copier worked faithfully thereafter.

There is never a time when God is not aware of our activities. If we simply realized his daily presence and his moving in our lives, we would not easily become lax. Christians need to recognize continually the goodness and the rightful Lordship of Christ, and we need to obey him in giving, and in everything else.

Florence Nightingale, the heroic nurse of the Crimean War, was once asked the secret of her remarkable fulfillment in living. She responded, "I never refused God anything." Her motto is ideal for every believer in Jesus Christ.

**Surrender to Him
in gratitude;
obey Him in love**



*Whoever is faithful
in a very little is faithful
also in much. – Luke 16:10*



SHOW-ME

Love & **GIVING**

A young man and his family were just getting by. From time to time his father sent him a little money, calling it reimbursement for some way the son had helped him.

A particularly large gift came one day with this note: "If there needs to be any reason for this check, let it be simply the gratitude of a father who loves you very much."

The apostle John wrote that "God so loved. . . that he gave" (Jh.3:16). Later John wrote, "We love him because he first loved us" (1 Jn.4:19). If God showed his love for us through giving, we must show our love for him through giving, too. And just as God gave to meet our need of forgiveness and salvation, we must give to the great cause of God's kingdom, to carry the message of salvation in Jesus Christ to the rest of the world.

Christ made no apology about calling his disciples to lay down possessions and even life itself in order to seek and preach the kingdom of God. Neither have Southern Baptists apologized for challenging believers to give sacrificially to their churches, and for churches to give generously to their associations and conventions. Most of the world, most of our country, and most of our own state is still without eternal life through Jesus Christ. Through the Cooperative Program, Missouri Baptists are part of the most efficient effort ever devised to spread the gospel, but it takes resources for that effort to go forward.

If there needs to be any reason for your sacrificial gift for missions, let it be simply the gratitude of a Christian who loves Jesus his Savior very much.