

Closing thoughts...

The widow had kept her heart in tune with God. She knew what she needed to do in order to be in obedience to Him. The name, "Giver," fits her well. Don't let your heart get out of tune. Pray, read your Bible, attend church, listen to the Holy Spirit, be faithful, be humble, give as you've been given. My friends, let's not keep everything for ourselves. Remember, everything we have belongs to God anyway. He knows what we can afford to give to His service. He knows if we are truly worshiping Him. Our God is a big God. He doesn't need our money. What He needs and wants is a heart willing to give freely and generously because He gave to us.



MARCH STUDY

My Name is Favor

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Beginning thoughts...

I have a spinet piano, probably close to 60 years old, in fairly good condition, still sounds pretty good.....except for an after-ringing of the notes when played. That piano has brought us many hours of enjoyment with friends singing around it. Yet, time has passed; the piano is no longer played as much as it used to be. Unused and old things have a way of deteriorating and slipping into decay. Hopefully, it won't have to have the insides redone because that could be very expensive. (Sometimes it's hard to let go of my money.) Maybe it just needs retuning.

Our hearts can do the same thing—deteriorate and decay—unless we guard them carefully and keep them in tune to God's word. I tend to believe the widow of our study this month knew Jesus personally. She may have spoken to Him as she came into the Temple that day or certainly upon going out. We know this widow didn't have much from the size of her offering, yet, this poor widow was rich beyond her means. She gave because she loved Jesus. He may have even hugged her and said, "Well, done, good and faithful servant." We're not given that information, but it makes my spirit praise God at the thought of it. Jesus was watching her that day in the Temple. He watches us everyday wherever we are. He knows if we are truly giving from a heart of gladness or one of reluctance.

My heart rejoices in that God loved me so much He gave His only Son so I can live eternally with Him. Here on earth, I want to do everything I can to show how much I love and reverence Him. It may be through worship. God is honored when we praise Him. It may be through service. We are God's hands and feet here on earth. It may be through giving. God wants us to give freely of our resources for His work. Our worship, service, and giving are all a measure of how much we love God and how much our heart is in tune with Him.

My Name is Giver

GIVER OF MONEY

Key Verse: “And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s: it is holy unto the Lord” (Leviticus 27:30).

Key Thought: Giving financially acknowledges our gratitude to God, realizing that all we possess comes as a gift from His hand.

- 🕯 Write the key verse in your journal.
 - 🕯 Go over the questions and answers on p. 13 in *Treasure*.
 - 🕯 How do you feel about the subject of money? Your money?
 - 🕯 Is money supposed to be hoarded, spent frivolously or used wisely and responsibly?
 - 🕯 Do you know what the word **avarice** means? (*It is: Greed; the desire to gain or hoard wealth.*)
 - 🕯 Would you say that Judas Iscariot was greedy? (*John 12:3-6; Mark 14:10-11*)
 - 🕯 Did the money help him in any way? (*Matthew 27:5*)
 - 🕯 Name some results of avarice. (**Family trouble**—Proverbs 15:27; **Disappointment**—Ecclesiastes 5:10; **Folly**—Jeremiah 17:11; **Apostasy**—1 Timothy 6:10; **Misery**—James 5:3.)
 - 🕯 The widow gave two mites—Greek money which equals a farthing in Roman money. How much would this be in American money? (*Most time, we credit her with giving two cents, two pennies, although it might have been less. One reference indicated a farthing is equal to a half penny.*)
 - 🕯 What can you buy for two cents?
 - 🕯 Yet, was Jesus angry with her? (*No, it’s recorded twice; in Mark and Luke that He commended her.*)
 - 🕯 This widow had the knowledge and the heart for spiritual investments. How can we secure spiritual treasures? (**Follow Jesus**—Matthew 19:21; **Invest in God’s work**—Matthew 6:20; **Serve God at all costs**—Philippians 3:8; **Have a solid foundation of salvation**—1 Timothy 6:19; **Be rich in faith**—James 2:5.)
 - 🕯 Think of a person with needs or a ministry where giving would be a blessings this month. Then take action: GIVE.
 - 🕯 Write *Jehovah-Jireh* in your journal. This means: God, our provider.
- Reflection:** Thank God for being your provider and ask Him to give you a “Giver’s Heart.”

My Name is Giver

GIVER OF HEART

Key Verse: “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

Key Thought: True giving begins as we believe in our hearts that Christ died and arose for us, and we accept Christ’s ultimate gift of salvation.

- 🕯 Write the key verse in your journal. Memorize it this month.
 - 🕯 Go over all the questions and answers on p. 15 in *Treasure*.
 - 🕯 Read Revelation 3:16-17, again. On what were the Laodiceans depending? (*Their own self-sufficiency and earthly treasures.*)
 - 🕯 What had that trust caused them to become? (*Lukewarm*)
 - 🕯 How do we let ourselves drift away from God, thereby, becoming lukewarm?
 - 🕯 How can we love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind? (**Ask God to help**—Philippians 4:7; **Praise**—Psalm 111:1; **Set our hearts**—2 Chronicles 11:16.)
 - 🕯 Does God know our hearts? (*Jeremiah 17:10, 23:24; 1 Chronicles 28:9; Luke 16:15; John 2:24-25*)
 - 🕯 The heart is the center of life. What happens when your heart stops beating? (*You die.*)
 - 🕯 Spiritually, how should we regard our heart? (**We should guard it**—Proverbs 4:23; **Know it determines character**—Proverbs 23:7; **Realize it can be a source of evil**—Matthew 15:18; **Recognize it controls speech**—Luke 6:45; **Cultivate it as source of faith**—Romans 10:10.)
 - 🕯 Why does God place so much importance on the condition of our hearts? (*John 3:16; Ezekiel 36:26*)
 - 🕯 Read Psalm 18:1-3. Why was David able to write these words about God at this time in his life? (*He realized God was all he needed.*)
 - 🕯 Do you realize God is all you need? Carefully search your heart for signs of total giving to God.
 - 🕯 Pray Psalm 19:14 together.
 - 🕯 Write *Adonai Tsuriv’goali*, “The LORD my Rock and my Redeemer” in your journal.
- Reflection:** Dismiss in prayer, praising God for the LORD of your salvation.

My Name is Giver

GIVER OF SOUL

Key Verse: “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:38).

Key Thought: Giving to others is a natural byproduct of our love and service to God.

🙏 Write the key verse in your journal.

🙏 Go over the questions and answers on p. 17 in *Treasure*.

🙏 Why is the soul important to God? (***It never dies; it's immortal***—1 Corinthians 15:54; ***He gave it to us***—Ecclesiastes 12:7; ***It can be destroyed***—Matthew 10:28.)

🙏 Where is the first mention of soul or spirit in the Bible? (*Genesis 2:7*)

🙏 Jesus taught the value of the soul to His disciples and us throughout His ministry. (*Read Matthew 16:26; Luke 9:25.*)

🙏 We are given promises regarding the soul. (*Psalm 49:15; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; John 5:25; 2 Corinthians 5:1.*)

🙏 Do you think the widow had heard Jesus preach about the soul at some point? (*I do, because her generosity came from total dedication to God.*)

🙏 Did she give because Jesus was watching? (*No, she gave out of her heart and soul, not out of her resources—Mark 12:41; Luke 21:1.*)

🙏 Does Jesus watch what we give? (*Ouch!*)

🙏 Why do we find it hard to share our soul with others?

🙏 Do we not want them to know what Jesus has done for us?

🙏 Remember these things about the soul of man/woman: (***We're equal***—Proverbs 22:2; Romans 10:12; James 2:5; ***We're made in the image of God***—Genesis 1:27; ***We have preeminence over animals and the natural world***—Genesis 1:28, 9:2; Psalm 8:6; ***We're spiritual beings***—Job 32:8; ***We have infinite value***—1 Corinthians 6:20; 1 Peter 1:18-19.)

🙏 Sing or read the words to “Give of Your Best to the Master,” (*The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book, REJOICE*, p. 626.)

🙏 Write the name for God, *Jehovah Mekaddishkem*, which means “The Lord Your Sanctifier” in your journal.

Reflection: Dismiss in prayer and ask God to help you in your service to Him and others.

My Name is Giver

GIVER OF SELF

Key Verses: “And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God” (2 Corinthians 8:5).

Key Thought: In light of all God has given us, we should follow His example and willingly give of ourselves.

🙏 Write the key verse in your journal. Memorize it this month.

🙏 Go over the questions and answers on p. 19 in *Treasure*.

🙏 The key verse proves that God's economy is different from ours. How? (*They gave of themselves.*)

🙏 Who were the ones giving? (*The Macedonians—2 Corinthians 8:1.*)

🙏 What were the circumstances that are described in 2 Corinthians 8:2? (*Great trial of affliction; abundance of joy; deep poverty; riches of liberality.*)

🙏 Do these conditions not contradict each other?

🙏 Then why did they give so willingly of self? (*Read 2 Corinthians 8:7. They excelled in faith, speech, diligence, knowledge and love.*)

🙏 Why is faith an important part in giving to God? (***Without faith it's impossible to please God***—Hebrews 11:6; ***Giving is an expression of faith***—James 2:17; ***It's giving of your heart***—Acts 15:8-9; James 1:6; ***It shows trust***—Hebrews 11:1; Proverbs 29:25.)

🙏 What difference does it make if we give cheerfully or not? (*Here, again, it shows the condition of the heart—2 Corinthians 9:7.*)

🙏 How can we give with gladness and generosity? (*By keeping our eyes on Jesus. He gave to us—2 Corinthians 9:15; Ephesians 2:8*)

🙏 Paul calls giving an “act of grace” in 2 Corinthians 8:6-7 (NIV). Why? (***God so freely gives to us***—Psalm 84:11; ***Grace enables our services to Him***—1 Corinthians 15:10; ***He gives grace to the humble***—1 Peter 5:5; ***Grace allows us to help others***—1 Peter 4:10.)

🙏 Did the widow in the temple display all these “acts of grace”? (*Yes, over and above.*)

🙏 Write this name for Christ in your journal: *SERVANT*.

Reflection: Dismiss in prayer and ask God to give you a servant's heart for those around you and to instill acts of grace in you