

The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER
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The Mission of
FBCWR:
*Connecting People
to God's Life-
Changing Power*

*We've Got
Connections!*

In everything I showed
you that by working hard
in this manner you must
help the weak and re-
member the words of the
Lord Jesus, that He Him-
self said, "**It is more
blessed to give than to
receive.**"

Acts 20:35

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Give it Up!

It's been said "It is better to give than to receive." Of course I've also heard a lot of people say (jokingly) that it's just better to receive! But is it really a joke or do we sometimes mean it?

We live in a time where the phrase "It's all about ME" has become the theme song of so many while "How may I serve you" has gone out the window with record albums and 8-track tapes. But is that how we really want to live? I hope not. If we've accepted Christ as our Savior, then being a servant is a part of our job description.

Over the past several weeks I have personally witnessed the "How may I serve you" attitude in so many people. Our church family and extended friends have showered our Pastor and his family with dinners, notes of encouragement, prayers and lots of love! I've witnessed the kindness of my boss who has such a giving heart and has helped so many people and has been a real blessing to me. Recently I was able to witness it with my mom's neighbor who was so sweet to me while I was visiting my Mom, and I have to say she makes an awesome cheesecake! And through the years I have witnessed it in my family in ways that are too numerous to mention because we're talking a lot of years! However, I do recall many times when my parents helped people who were less fortunate than them....I know these times were part of the lessons I've learned through the years.

I was recently reading in Acts Paul's farewell to Ephesus. I think we can all agree that when Paul accepted Christ as his Savior and became a Christian - his life was certainly not all sunshine and roses after that.

As a matter of fact, it was anything but easy. In Acts 20:22-23 Paul says, "...I am on

my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me." Now, I know that many of us have had or will have our share of troubles. But, if you knew ahead of time they were coming, would you willingly and gladly walk into them? I don't think we would. Paul knew he would be facing trials everywhere he went, but because he valued what God had called him to do in spreading the gospel to the lost more than he valued his life - he went ever so willingly.

Paul didn't have all the latest and greatest gadgets of the day. He didn't have designer clothes as he walked across the land and sailed the dangerous seas. He had a mission - a calling, and that was to Serve his Lord. And I believe he did it gladly!



So is it really better to give than to receive? I think it is. I know that the thing (and there aren't many) that energizes me and excites me the most is doing something for someone else. And the beauty of it is the fact that it has nothing to do with "me" but everything to do with applying the lessons I've learned through the years from others and most of all doing what God has put in my heart to do. Do I do it perfectly? No. Sometimes I miss opportunities that should have been taken, but my prayer is to be more in tune with the needs of others and to do what God has enabled me to do for them. And it does make my heart glad more than anything money can buy.

Darlene Saunders