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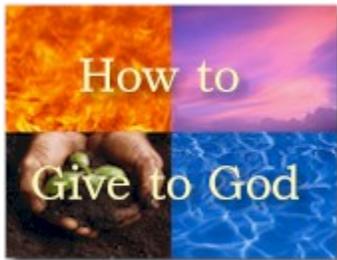
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## How to Give to God

by Ernest L. Martin, November 1992

Edited by David Sielaff

Read the accompanying [Newsletter for May 2011](#)



Another title of this article could be “The Chief Principle in Giving to God.” Philosophically it might be argued that humans can give nothing to God since He owns everything there is in the universe, and that includes you and me. Yes, He owns us and everything, and we know that He does. But that is not the way that God looks at it. God chose, as shown in the Holy Bible, a very different way of looking at things in regard to giving to Him. He gives various principles and one chief principle indeed. What He does is to look on you and me as equal members of His divine family. He is the Father, Christ is the firstborn, and all of us are “in Christ,” so that makes us His children also.<sup>1</sup> That is why we call each other brothers and sisters. We are reckoned as one family that, among other things, gives to one another.

We give things to one another. We share with one another. We have family concerns with one another. There is the intimate family relationship by being “in Christ” and by being a Christian at this present time, but there are people out in the world that potentially will be Christians as well. Indeed, when we read the Scriptures, we find out that God is interested in saving all on the earth — that includes (1) all that have ever lived, (2) all that live now, and (3) all that will live in the future. There is in His design a grand reconciliation that will take place in the future. He has done it and will accomplish it through Jesus Christ, His death on the tree of crucifixion, and also His resurrection from the dead, and especially the fact that He is at the right hand of the Father in heaven.<sup>2</sup>

We are given a firstfruits knowledge of this information (Romans 8:23, James 1:18). We are to share with one another the understanding that we are the very family of God at the present time. For we who understand the Mystery, the final revelation of God (that He gave to the apostle Paul and others), He tells us that

<sup>1</sup> See Romans 8:14–21; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 1:4–6; and 1 John 3:1–3, 5:1. DWS

<sup>2</sup> This is Dr. Martin’s brief review of the Gospel message that the apostle Paul gave in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 that each of you should study, know, understand, and have in your mind in preparation of telling other people about the Gospel when situations arise to do so as indicated in 1 Peter 3:15: “**But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.**” DWS

we have no human mediators of any kind between ourselves and God the Father, with the exception of one individual. That one individual is our elder brother Christ Jesus. We no longer need any humans whatsoever between us and God the Father other than Christ because we are **“in Christ”** and we are reckoned as the divine royal family of the Living God, the One who controls the entirety of this universe, He and His Son Jesus Christ.<sup>3</sup>

### ***The Scope of Salvation***

Potentially the whole human race will be members of that very family. They just do not know it yet. They should be told this fact. God is the one who opens the doors for the giving of His message to the world. He also is responsible for opening the ears of individuals to hear it so that they might understand it, comprehend it, and work in it. He also takes the blinders off of the eyes of people so they might be able to see it, to appreciate it, and to have joy in that knowledge. Yes, God is responsible for all of that, yet at the same time since we are members of the very family of God, we share in that responsibility. It is a joy that we ought to have in doing so.

Once we understand just who we are, who we of the human race happen to be, why we were created, and how we are destined to govern the entirety of this universe, all of the galaxies that are out there, all of the solar systems that are in our galaxy, of which there are over 100 billion solar systems. And there are over 100 billion galaxies that we are able to detect at the present time.

We are here on a little speck in the universe called earth, but God has given us knowledge of what He is doing with us here on this little speck of earth. Yes, it is large to us, certainly, but it is very small as far as the universe is concerned. He has picked out this little speck in the entirety of the universe in which to create His own children. He started with Adam and Eve.

Later He came to the Second Adam who was Jesus Christ (Romans 5:12–21; 1 Corinthians 15:45–49). We as the *ekklesia* represent His wife, the spiritual Eve who will be with Christ in the very family of God when we are resurrected from the dead and assume our position at the right hand of the Father just like Jesus did after His resurrection on that Sunday morning. He actually went back to the Father.

The Father said to Him, because of His righteous deeds — and He did them not for Himself because He was righteous to begin with — He did the righteous deeds for us. He told Christ Jesus, His Son, to sit on His right hand side. That is exactly what Jesus Christ did. When He did that, He was doing it not only for Himself, but also for you and for me. People in the world do not realize it yet, but He was actually doing it for them as well.

This knowledge that you can have is first of all beautiful, but also it is potentially very dangerous — if we do not do something about it. If we sit back once we understand these wonderful truths and do not take up our own responsibilities as being members of the family of God, then we will suffer, we will lose out. We might even miss the Kingdom of God phase for that 1,000 year millennium which will occur at the Second Coming of Christ.

Most of us should have no fear of not being there because if we have our attitudes generally correct and we are not going around being spiteful of God, and we are doing our share in promoting the interests of the family, then we shall share in that Kingdom phase of salvation, as well as salvation itself.

The rest of the world, most of the world, will not participate in that Kingdom phase. That is something God has designed only for a select few. But all will be saved in the end. All will come to a reconciled state to the Father through Jesus Christ.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> This allows us to have immediate access to God the Father for our prayers, thanksgiving, and our requests. See Dr. Martin’s short article which is related to this one, [“How You Can Influence God.”](#) DWS

<sup>4</sup> Colossians 1:17–22:

**“And he [Christ] is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church [the *ekklesia*]: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preemi-**

## *Our Responsibility before God*

That is what we are here for: first of all to tell ourselves, and then to tell the world that information.

- You must be grounded in the truth yourself, before you can tell someone else the truth.
- You must be strong before you can help the weak.
- You must be fully educated and prepared yourself, as best as possible, so you can help someone else.

That is what I have to do. That is what you have to do. Each one of us is responsible to God, because we are members of the royal family of God. We all have our different talents. Some of us are very good at one thing, and others are good at other things, but we all have a very important place. Every one of us is very important in the Body of Christ. We fit in a particular place in that body.

Christ has put us there, with our various talents, our desires, our wishes, our various things that make up our individual selves and personalities. All of these things have been given to us by God for a reason — so that the family can be complete; a family not only composed of a Father and a first-born Son but all of us (sons and daughters) with them to rule the entirety of this universe in the future.

That is the knowledge that God wants you to have. You have it by understanding the full teachings of the Scripture that started to be given back at the time of Adam. In the time of Abraham more information was given, in the time of Moses even more, and in the time of David even more. When John the Baptist came along more information was given. Certainly more was given by our Lord when He taught here on earth. Then the apostles after they had received the Holy Spirit began to teach, step by step they learned more and they gave more knowledge, more mysteries of what was going to happen in the future (Luke 24:44–48; John 16:12–13). Each revelation that came to the apostles that they were able to disclose to people is a mystery itself being disclosed.

“The Mystery,” the final, the full mystery, the completion of the Word of God was given about the year 63 AD. That was when the whole world became knowledgeable, if they have eyes to see and ears to hear, of the divine truth of Almighty God. We are to be, and are, members of the divine family of God, and the most extraordinary thing, the most beautiful thing that you can think of, is the fact that we are members of that family while we are yet in this human flesh.

Ephesians 2:6 says that we have that status right now, at this very moment. Pinch yourself wherever you are. It makes no difference if you are in London, England, or if you are in California, or Australia, or if you are in China. Pinch yourself where you are physically, geographically, but legally you are sitting on the right hand of the Father in heaven in Christ Jesus. You have assurance that you will be in that family in the future through what Jesus Christ did for us.

Our salvation is secure. We need to be telling the world not how to get saved, like so many people and preachers and evangelists are doing. They do not need to be told how to get saved. They need to be told how they got saved — past tense. They got saved because of what Christ Jesus has done for them and what God through Christ is doing for us and them at the present time.

Yes, people will be saved. We are a part of a family. We are brothers and sisters of one another. One of the first principles on how to give to God is to give to other brothers and sisters. But the people out in the world who are not, in one way of looking at it yet, are not our brothers and sisters in a spiritual sense because they do not have the Holy Spirit like we do, they potentially will be, they are our neighbors. We

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nence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now has he reconciled in the body of his flesh [Christ's flesh] through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight.”

should be showing them also the same type of love and respect and concern, and look after their benefits and welfare as best we possibly can.

We are members of the divine family of God, with Christ Jesus our elder brother right there by our side and God the Father sitting on His throne right there, but very benignly looking at us with approval and saying that we are His children. We have our mistakes, we have our problems, we have our difficulties, we are not perfect, but do you know something? We have been saved already through Christ Jesus who was and is perfect. That is what the Gospel message is all about.

So giving to God means in a sense giving to one another, giving to other human beings. It is almost impossible to give something to God who owns it all, to the Father, or even to Christ Jesus who under the Father created the heavens and the earth.<sup>5</sup> Philosophically you might say it is possible to give to God, but how can you really do that? Well, you give to be able to help the family to grow.

One of the main reasons we are here is to support the family. The family is the number one unit that God has made for the preservation of civilization, and shall I say, for the preservation even of the Godhead, because the Godhead itself is the family: the Father, the Son, and all of us make up the family of God.

The only thing that we do not possess at the present time is their ultimate power, and that will be given to us in the future once we learn how to control it and to use it, but we do not have the power of God right now unless God allows us to have it piecemeal so to speak, for particular reasons. No we do not. But once we are resurrected from the dead and we assume our spiritual bodies, we will be taught step by step in the future how we can use the very powers of God that control and govern and sustain the entirety of this universe.

### *Education in the Family*

One of the chief things that we should be doing is to see that the family not only is protected (and God is the great Protector), but also provided for in all types of ways, just not in food, raiment, housing, though those sorts of things are important. Education is very important. The family must be educated and learn to know more about God, what God is all about, and why we are here so we can benefit those who do not have this knowledge.

You cannot teach something to someone unless you know it yourself. Most people out in the world have no idea that they have been born into this world to become members of the family of God, both male and female. They do not know that yet, but you and I should know that. That is what the teaching of the Good News, the Gospel, is all about. We need to see that the family is growing, that the family has welfare — by that I mean that it “fares well,” that it is benefitted, that we grow in grace and in knowledge together for the benefit of the family of God.

We are a royal family, a royal priesthood. We are the very family of the Eternal God. I have said that so many times, but it can never be repeated too often because that is the essence of the Gospel. What we do is to help the family to grow — and education is certainly a major part of that.

One of the major ways that we show our love, respect, and thanksgiving to God is to show it to one another. Look around on this earth. You who are married, you have a wife or a husband, and you who have children and maybe you have fathers and mothers, maybe they are still with you and maybe not. Most of us have grown up knowing what a family relationship is all about. The family should learn to cohere together, to benefit one another, to show love and respect to one another and thankfulness to one another. You can do that through giving.

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<sup>5</sup> Colossians 1:16–17:

“**For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**”

It does not only mean money, it means giving in all types of ways. I mentioned that word “love.” I mentioned another word “respect.” I mentioned one called “thankfulness.” It is even nice to know that you are thankful that other members of the family have helped you in many ways, whatever they may be: material, spiritual, or whatever. These words here, once we develop them and grow in them and help the family to mature and to be happy and joyful even more, that is what our job is to do right here now, and to teach people how to be members of that family, and also to be joyful in our relationships.

Let me give you a human example of how we can actually help one another. In a sense it is like giving to the Father. God the Father and Christ, since they own everything in the universe, it is kind of impossible in one way to give them *something* that they do not own already. Here is how you really give to God: it is by giving “up” something that is your property, that is yours to keep, but you want to give it up to share in the development of a person in the family or collectively the whole family. When one member of the family benefits, all the family benefits, including Jesus Christ and God the Father.

### *An Example*

How can this occur? A human father says to his 10 year-old son, “I’ll give you ten dollars spending money each month if you will keep the lawn mowed.” He wants to train his son. If the son wants spending money, then he must keep the lawn mowed. On one particular month, however, when Dad did not earn very much money, he was a salesman and he did not earn very much, the boy says, “Dad, I will take the ten dollars you gave me, but I am giving you five dollars back to help pay the rent this month.” You can imagine such a situation like that happening. Here is this 10 year-old boy learning a marvelous lesson. Yes, he took his ten dollars and gave five back (or he only took five, it would be the same thing); he wanted to pitch in to help the family.

God the Father has everything here on earth. But sometimes He allows droughts to occur on this earth. Sometimes there are major disasters of some kind that God allows. What we have to do if some of our brothers and sisters are in need of physical or spiritual help it makes no difference. If we can help, we should do it. That is what we should do.

Here is this young man saying to his father, “I’m giving you \$5 to help pay the rent this month.” That situation actually causes a love environment to exist between that 10 year old boy, his father, and the rest of the family, his mother, and brothers and sisters, if he had any, because this boy was willing to help and pitch in. He was not sitting on his behind all the time, or just wanting the \$10 to go to a movie and let everyone else just stay at home. He wanted to help. It was an attitude sort of thing. He was giving to the family.

When you give to God’s family, to others who are in it, your brothers and your sisters, material or spiritual, you are actually giving to Christ Jesus, and you are giving to the Father. This \$5 that 10 year old boy gave up was a sacrifice on his part. By the way, it was good training for him.

### *Israel’s Animal Sacrifices in the Tabernacle and Temple*

Do you know that the sacrifices of the Old Testament, particularly the animal sacrifices, they were not acceptable to God unless the animal was actually bought or owned by the individual? He had to give up something that he owned, that was his. If he went out and got it from someone else or stole it, or an abundance was given to him and it did not mean any sacrifice to his personal situation, then you could not use the word “sacrifice.” It was not acceptable. It was necessary to give up something of your own property to help the development and the benefit of the whole family.

By giving up something you are gaining tremendously from it. In fact we all are, by giving up for the benefit of the family you actually are helping yourself. You truly are. We all are when you really think about it. The “giving up” is a sacrifice on our part to show the principle of love working and developing in our attitudes.

This is the essential thing that God wants in the first place. It shows a respect for the family, and a thankfulness to the rest of the family and to God the Father for all of the things that He has given to us. So

the illustration of the 10 year old boy giving up \$5 of his \$10 is a perfectly good example of sharing with other members of the family. Even the father benefits, even though the first \$10 came from the father in the first place. It was the boy's. He was promised it. It was given to him. He had the right to give it up and he gave up \$5 of it. This young man showed love to his family and doing his part. He sacrificed for his family.

### **David's Sacrifice for the Temple Site**

Do you know the site of God's Temple in Jerusalem was bought with the same type of principle put into action by King David? David wrote many of the psalms of the Bible under inspiration of God. In his writing the psalms, he was able to express on many occasions attitudes of mind which showed the Holy Spirit working on him. Many of these things are recorded in the Scripture.<sup>6</sup>

The Temple site in Jerusalem was bought with this principle of giving brought to the fore. Look at First Chronicles chapter 21. There had been a plague in the land because of some of David's misdeeds. The storyline shifts to the subject of God choosing the location of the future Temple:

**“Then the angel of YHWH commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar unto YHWH in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.”**

• **1 Chronicles 21:18**

Gad was a prophet to David. This threshingfloor was on the north side of a mountain in the area that we know today as Jerusalem. That mountain was known then as Zion. David had built his palace on that mountain of Zion. To the north of it was a bald rocky outcrop area and this Ornan, a Jebusite (not an Israelite but a Canaanite), owned that land. God had told David previously that that place was going to be holy and sacred. In fact, it was going to be the place where the Holy Temple was built by David's son Solomon. So God says for David to go up to that place. David does so:

**“And David went up at the saying of Gad, which he spoke in the name of YHWH. And Ornan turned back, and saw the angel; and his four sons with him hid themselves. Now Ornan was threshing wheat [it was summer]. And as David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David, and went out of the threshingfloor, and bowed himself to David with his face to the ground. Then David said to Ornan, ‘Grant me the place of this threshingfloor, that I may build an altar therein unto YHWH: you shall grant it me for the full price: ...”**

• **1 Chronicles 21:19–22**

Look at what David was asking for. He was asking Ornan, this Jebusite, to sell that piece of land to him. He did not want a partial bargain, say 20% or 40% or 50% off, or just give it to me.<sup>7</sup> That was an extraordinary thing to say because you and I today if we were doing business we look for bargains and sales. And there is nothing wrong with doing so. But in this instance David did not want to take anything from Ornan. Ornan was a gentleman. He was also afraid seeing that angel. He knew the power being manifested through King David in this particular case as well. David said to Ornan that he was going to pay it all, every bit of the full price.

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<sup>6</sup> King David made his mistakes. I am thankful that those mistakes are recorded in the Scripture, because it means that old Ernest Martin is just about the same way sometimes as David — not in all ways like David, I am not a king or have all the money or things like that, but there is not one of us who are perfect, are we? I do not allow my imperfections get in the way of teaching the Gospel if I can possibly help it. I am one of the nicest guys I have ever met. I have met so many of you and you are the nicest people I ever met in my life also. That does not mean you are perfect, are you? No, but you have an attitude that is right. You are willing to do your part to getting out benefits for the family, in this case the family of God. I must add, potentially the whole human family will be members of this wonderful group headed by the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We should realize these things. *ELM*

<sup>7</sup> Which most any other ruler would have demanded and taken that piece of land by right of conquest because David as the king of Judah controlled Jerusalem. *DWS*

**“And Ornan said unto David, ‘Take it to you, and let my lord the king do that which is good in his eyes: lo, I give you the oxen also for burnt offerings, and the threshing instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meat [meal] offering; I give it all.’”**

• 1 Chronicles 21:23

David was going to buy the property but all of these extra things Ornan was going to give to him. King David replied to Ornan:

**“And king David said to Ornan, ‘Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is yours for YHWH, nor offer burnt offerings without cost.’”**

• 1 Chronicles 21:24

David understood a principle in all of this. He knew, though he was rich, as a king he knew that he had to give up something that was his property. To give to God, you really do not “give” to God, you “give up” something that you can use for your personal property for the benefit of yourself and your family, even the welfare of yourself and your family, and you give it up so you do not own it any more. You do it for the benefit of God. In this case it was a command, and David was obeying that command.

David was saying through principles that he learned from a youth, that when you sacrifice animals to God they have to be your animals, not something given to you. That is why it was absolutely forbidden to go out into the woods and get a perfectly clean animal like a deer or a gazelle and offer it on the altar of God. It was not permitted. It had to be a goat, a sheep, a bull, the red heifer, or something similar, that was domesticated that cost people money, that they had to, when they gave it, they had to know it was a “sacrifice,” that they were not going to be able to use in the future.<sup>8</sup>

This applied from David’s point of view to himself, the king. It applies to Ernest Martin. It applies to you. It applies to any of us if we want to understand the principles of giving. We may be rich and give much. We may be poor like the widow, and give a mite (Mark 12:38–44). It depends on attitude as we know just exactly the type that God will accept. The point is this: we have to give it up from ourselves. It is no longer ours to use.

It is “ours” in one way. David’s purchase of the property was his donation for the benefit of the nation. It was also for the benefit of the nation that God’s anger for David’s sin was appeased. The process of building the Temple began with David’s purchase. Do you know who finally benefitted from it? David himself did. But here at the start David had to give up something to benefit the nation, to diminish and remove the plagues that were upon the people at the time. God blessed Israel from then on. But David had to give up something. That is just a principle that I am giving and it is an important one for us to understand.

### ***Giving to and for the Family***

The truth is, you can never give anything to God since He owns everything, but what you do is to give up things that He has allowed you to have (and they are in your rightful possession and control), things meant for the welfare, comfort, and wellbeing of yourself and your family, and you give it for the benefit of someone else. David bought the site for the benefit of the nation, and really for the whole world because the whole world was to look to that Temple later on, as Solomon said (1 Kings 8:43, 59–60; 2 Chronicles 6:33).

That is where we fit in also. We at ASK are trying to give education and knowledge and teaching of the Gospel, the Good News, not only to you and to ourselves who are of the intimate family, shall we say, of ASK, but we are trying to give it to the world if they will listen. When God opens the eyes and ears of

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<sup>8</sup> The principle was that the item or animal being sacrificed was to be something (1) that had value and (2) the sacrifice would be an expense and a loss for the person offering the sacrifice. For peace offerings the person bringing the sacrifice and his family were allowed to share the cooked meat with the priests. Of course, the Passover sacrifice was eaten by the entire family without reference to any actions by Levitical priests. However, most tabernacle and Temple sacrifices were handled by the priests and some of the meat was given to them to eat. DWS

people, we will be right there to help them, God willing. That is what we are here for. We are here to benefit the family. We each have a responsibility that we have to meet. That responsibility is not something that Ernest Martin tells you what to do. It is something that God tells you what to do.

When you really get down to it, it is not even God telling you what to do. It is what your own conscience tells you that a mature individual would be doing in the first place. You want to do your part and I want to do my part. That is what giving is all about, you give up something that you own to be able to help benefit the rest of the family, or others in the world. Do you know who finally benefits the most? You do yourself. First of all you get a good feeling, a cheerful feeling that you are doing your part. It makes you feel good. It makes me feel good when I do such things. It should do that. It also makes you see others being benefitted from this, and the whole family is growing and we all benefit one from another.

In reality you do not give up a part of your property to Jesus Christ, you give it up to other humans on earth that God might designate. Those humans are pretty well delineated in the Scripture.

Let me say this, if a fellow Christian that you know personally lacks the basic needs of life, in this case material things, or even spiritual things as far as that goes, Christ says if you help him out it is reckoned by God as though you were giving it to Christ Himself. You know this principle. It is in Matthew chapter 25 and this is important for us to understand. This is how we give up things that we own ourselves to give to Christ Jesus:

**“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand,**

**‘Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and you gave me meat [food]: I was thirsty, and you gave me drink: I was a stranger, and you took me in: Naked, and you clothed me: I was sick, and you visited me: I was in prison, and you came unto me.’**

**Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when saw we you an hungered, and fed you? or thirsty, and gave you drink? When saw we you a stranger, and took you in? or naked, and clothed you? Or when saw we you sick, or in prison, and came unto you?’**

**And the King shall answer and say unto them, ‘Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren [meaning those of His family], you have done it unto me.’”**

**• Matthew 25:31–40**

It goes on to say on the negative side here that some people will say, my, I gave you all types of this and that, I donate to this church, I did this, I did a thousand other things, going on and on. The king says, did you do it to **“my brethren,”** to the people who were really in need. Did you do it in a proper attitude and things like that? You can read all of that there, of course, and it is perfectly correct to do so. If you help the brethren when they need these things (and by the way we all need these things, we all need help from one another in every way, material as well as spiritual) when we help one another, when we help the family, we are actually giving to our elder brother. And we are giving to the Father, though they own everything.

You see, it is our part coming in there. We are given the \$10 for mowing the lawn. When we saw the need for \$5 that would help the family, we gave up the \$5. We gave it up. We sacrificed. There is the principle.

## ***Giving and Teaching***

Remember a well-known proverb. When we get down to material things, and most of these things mentioned here in this section of Scripture by Christ were on material things, but even the spiritual sometimes can be even more important, because the spiritual means education, understanding, wisdom, things like that.

People need those things. That is what gives character to life. That is what gives glory and goodness to life. That is what gives you satisfaction with life, when you can approach things from a mature spiritual point of view, as well as the materialistic. Here is the proverb which we all know, but it is appropriate at this time: “Give a man a fish and he won’t be hungry for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will never be hungry.” In other words if you give him education and teach the man how to fish, then he can do it on his own. He got the help that was needed at first. He got it from you.

By the way it is perfectly proper to help the poor out of their immediate hunger, without any question, but it is far better to give that person something to eat right now, and then begin to teach him. It is better to get him out of his hunger, yes, but then get him out of his lack of education. Put him in a position, if we can, so he can learn to stand on his own two feet and he will feel better about it. He will feel the self-esteem that he needs. When he learns how to fish and get many fish, he can share those fish with others in need. There is the point. It makes all of us feel good. This is an important point which we should realize on principles of giving.

You know this already but we need to be reminded of these things. The number one principle in giving to God, you have to give to the family of which you are a member. When we give to the family we build up the whole family. That means God the Father and Christ Jesus share in it, especially in the love and the respect and the thanksgiving that can come.

### *The Strong and the Weak*

Now the strong should help the weak. The strong are the only type of individual that can help the weak. The weak cannot help the weak. You may be weak and slightly stronger than another weak brother. If you are slightly stronger, then you can help that brother, but if you are weak and weaker than weak, you cannot help a strong brother unless you are strong. You may be weak in money and have no money. Be strong spiritually and help a millionaire brother because you are strong in spiritual things. All these things have a gradation. It depends on circumstances, which is what we are talking about here.

Only the strong can help the weak. It is not possible to do otherwise. When the strong help the weak we do not help the weak to remain weak, we help the weak to become strong. That is what we need to do. The weak need education. That is what we of ASK are primarily here for. I believe that is one of the reasons that God has allowed us to exist, as part of the family to be able to give education.

We do not have perfect education to give you. The Bible is perfect but we do not understand it completely yet, but we understand a lot of it. When I say “we” I include myself and others. You, and we all, are beginning to understand the Scripture as never before and we need to share that with one another. That is education.

We are stronger in knowledge and understanding than lots of other people in the world. And I mean you. You have knowledge that if other people in the world had one tenth the knowledge that you do, it would be amazing what we could do if only 10% of the people of the United States had only 10% of your knowledge. We could absolutely do wonders of straightening out this whole system. Believe it or not, it would happen.

The strong need to support the weak, but not to keep them weak, but to support the weak to make them strong so they will stand up on their own two feet and help somebody else who is weak once and a while. We need to have each other growing in education and in knowledge, and in all ways to be strong, not only economically, materialistically, but also in a spiritual point of view. You teach a man how to fish, he will be eating from now on. This is a good principle to follow. In Romans chapter 15 the apostle Paul said:

**“We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification.”**

• *Romans 15:1–2*

The word “edification” means to build up, like building a house. Look out the window and see a next door neighbor building a house. He puts down a foundation, raises the walls, and puts on a roof. He puts in

furniture and all of that. He is edifying. He is building up.<sup>9</sup> That is what you have to do with your neighbor. That is what he has to do with you. That is what I have to do with you, and you with me.

We are here to cause people to be strong, strong in the faith, strong economically also, so far as that goes. It is nice to have all you can get. If God blesses you and you can get it, go out and get it. Nevertheless, the point is this: we who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and not live just to please ourselves (Romans 15:1–2, above):

**“For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, ‘The reproaches of them that reproached you fell on me.’ For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, ...”**<sup>10</sup>

• *Romans 15:3–4*

You know, those Old Testament proverbs telling you to be industrious and frugal and prudent and wise, they are all there for our learning so that we might be able to be strong. When we are strong, we can help the weak. And we are all weak from time to time, every one of us is. How many times have you come to our rescue at ASK. Believe me, I have asked you to on some occasions. So many of you have been faithful and you come right in to keep this work going so that we can get out the message of the good news of the Gospel to the world. I just appreciate it with all my heart. You have been true brothers and sisters, and I hope I have been to you also. What we need to do is to grow in grace and in knowledge. We who are strong need to continue helping those who are weak.

The apostle Paul went on in Romans chapter 15 saying that he wanted to preach the Gospel wherever he was assigned and he did not want to build on another man’s foundation. Then he said, “I will come over and visit you people in Rome,” on his way to Spain. He says that in Romans 15:20–24. He desired to go to Spain and he traveled from Corinth to Jerusalem first, and from there he hoped to go to Spain, stopping off at Rome on the way.

Why was he going to Jerusalem? He was going to minister to the saints, to the Christians who were at Jerusalem and give them food, supplies, and money he received from the people at Corinth. He was asking that the Romans also do some contributing for them as well.

**“But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints. For it has pleased them of Macedonia [northern Greece] and Achaia [southern-central Greece] to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. It has pleased them verily; and their debtors they are [the Jerusalem saints owe the contributors a debt of gratitude]. For if the Gentiles ...”**

• *Romans 15:25–27*

“Gentiles” meant those of the nations, non-Israelites. The Romans he was writing to were Gentiles, as were the people of Macedonia and Achaia, because:

**“For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.”**

• *Romans 15:27*

The word “**carnal**” simply means fleshly or materialistic. Therein is a principle. You know, the spiritual things that are given forth are worth money. They are of great benefit to you and to me. They give us security. They give us understanding. They let us know how the Holy Spirit works through us and helps us in so many ways. The Jews (the apostles were Jews, of course) came with the message of the Gospel to the Gentiles, and they gave them spiritual things. The Gentiles benefitted tremendously from those teachings.

<sup>9</sup> To “edify” means to build up. An edifice is something constructed like a building or a bridge. When something is edified, it is implied that there is improvement. *DWS*

<sup>10</sup> The portion: “**The reproaches of them that reproached you fell on me**” was a prophecy about Christ. Read all of Psalm 69, and note especially verses 9 and 19–20. Then look at Psalm 89:50–51. *DWS*

So, the apostle Paul is giving a principle here that they ought to help with material things when it is needful. That goes with any work that we have today. It makes no difference if it is ASK or any other work. If it is doing a good job, it should be supported, and generously as a matter of fact.

**“When therefore I have performed this [this service of taking the contributions to Jerusalem], and have sealed to them this fruit [the donations of food], I will come by you [you Romans] into Spain. And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in your prayers to God for me; That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem ...”**

• *Romans 15:28–31*

By **“my service”** he means these alms, this produce and funds.

By the way, they were in a sabbatical year down there even in the area of Judea at that time, the Jews were not sowing their land and they were not harvesting it. This is the year of early 56 AD and it was a sabbatical year. Paul was taking goods down to them to help them get through that period of time. Paul is saying, when I give this service to the people of Jerusalem, it:

**“may be accepted of the saints; That I may come unto you [you people of Rome] with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed. Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.”**

• *Romans 15:31–33*

The apostle Paul more or less ended his letter to the Romans there, and there were some tack-on items in chapter 16, but he wanted to thank them for the goodness that they had given, being Gentiles, to the people of Jerusalem. He said that was a proper principle to do. It was brethren helping brethren. They were giving up some things that belonged to them to be able to help the people who were in need at the time.

What does it mean to be “in need.” A person may be a millionaire but be in great need if he is miserable and feels worthless in life. I have read of many millionaires having committed suicide because they were unhappy in life, whatever the cause might be. Oh, it is nice to have money. I heard one man say that I’ve been rich and I’ve been poor (that is not the apostle Paul but another man), he said I’d rather be rich anytime. Well, I suppose we all would say that.

But the apostle Paul did say he had been rich and he had been full, and he had been lean, but he says he had always been full of the teachings of Christ, that is, filled to the top. He knew how to deal with the principles of life, and other people do not sometimes.<sup>11</sup>

### ***How Do People Need Help?***

The first person that needs help from your point of view ... is yourself. You are the first one you should help. Believe it or not, you are. You have to become strong yourself to be able to help other members of the family, who may be weak, to become strong. In your weaknesses, from time to time (and you are weak in

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<sup>11</sup> See 2 Corinthians 6:10; Philippians 4:11–13. Note Christ’s example, 2 Corinthians 8:9 and Paul’s warning about the possible snare of riches in 1 Timothy 6:9–10. Later Paul gives advice in 1 Timothy 6:17–19 (Concordant Version, Byzantine Greek text):

**“Those who are rich in the current eon be charging not to be haughty, nor yet to rely on the dubiousness of riches, but on God, Who is tendering us all things richly for our enjoyment;**

[1] **to be doing good acts,**

[2] **to be rich in ideal acts,**

[3] **to be liberal contributors,**

[to be] **treasuring up for themselves an ideal foundation for that which is impending, that they may get hold of eonian life.”**

some things like I am), you have to go to others for strength. This could be spiritual strength, it could be material strength, whatever, but first of all you must help yourself. The Golden Rule, as we state it is “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Here is the golden rule as Christ gave it:

**“Therefore all things whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do you even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”**

• **Matthew 7:12**

### ***Pleasing the Self***

Most of us want to please the self. The apostle Paul said that no man despises his flesh except a person who is distraught with life, yes, sometimes maybe they kill themselves, commit suicide, and that is a terrible thing to have to even read about. But if you have just a little bit of self-esteem about yourself, and I hope that every single one you have through the Holy Spirit, if you do, you will want to please yourself.

There is nothing wrong with pleasing yourself. In fact, how can Ernest Martin, if I am strong in history or education, or whatever it might be because I have had training in it, if I am strong in them, then I want to give them to somebody else so they may be strong as well. But most of my education that I have gotten, and striven to get, 24 hours a day in some cases, and I have done so first of all to please myself. When I say “please myself” I mean “to instruct myself.”

I ask God to help me understand so I can see it myself, for my own edification, for my own benefit, so I am satisfied with life, so that I am satisfied with Christ and with God the Father, so that I am satisfied with what Christianity has to offer. And believe you me, I am! And I know you are too.

We have had to study and study hard and long and diligently at all hours of the night. It has cost a tremendous amount of time and effort and money on my part. I have given up a lot. But you know, I have gained so much more than I have given up. I have gained so many spiritual things. I may not have all the physical things I may want, but do you know something, I have an abundance of spiritual things. I know that most of you can say the same.

I help myself. When I help myself I am so exuberant with what I have learned that Christ through the Holy Spirit has given to me, I want to take it to you. I want to share it with you. I want to see you happy and I want to see you benefitted by it. Not only you, you are my friends and my brothers and sisters, of course, you are special because of that, but I want to take it to the world as well. Do you know why I do? Because God has put it in me as a member of His family and I look out there at these poor souls that need the Gospel, and if they had the Gospel they would be fishing for fish and they would not be hungry any more. They would have the truth.

### ***God’s Future Action***

God will open up the Spirit of grace and supplication (Zechariah 12:10) pretty soon in the Middle East and in other areas of the world. That is prophesied. I want to be prepared for when that comes. I want you to be prepared. We have a responsibility and a marvelous job to do in the near future coming up here. But the first person you ought to please is yourself.

Get yourself strong. Then you can help your wife. Or you wives you can help your husband then. Or you mothers or fathers can help the children then. Or you grandchildren you can help your grandparents then if they do not know the truth. Be strong first.

Get yourself in good shape. That is the first thing you should do. That is what the apostle Paul was trying to say in Romans chapter 15. You who are strong can help the weak, but you have to be strong first. You get strong through various means, economically, yes, you go through various things to do that. You earn a good job, work hard for your employer or for yourself, treat your employer like he is Jesus Christ (in one way of looking at it), work honestly, fairly, and expect a good wage. Yes, all of those things are necessary.

You have to get yourself in order before you can help anyone else. That is a principle. You cannot give to anyone else or help anyone else, even members of the family, unless you are strong. Those of us who are

weak in some things (and many of us are still weak, including myself in many things), need to help those weaker than ourselves so we all become stronger. The family of God benefits. We all grow as a result.

This is what the principle of giving is all about. That is how God Himself grows. He is happy. He is joyful. He is gaining. He is benefitting. He is actually learning things. That is right. He is learning from us. He shares in a joy with us because we are willing to give that \$5 back when it was needful for someone else in the family.

### *The Golden, Platinum, and Diamond Rules*

The Golden Rule is “do unto others as you want them to do unto you.” The Platinum Rule which I have made up. Platinum is worth more than gold. The Platinum Rule is: “do unto God as you would like Him do unto you.” Have you ever thought about that before? Do you want to please God? Do unto God as you would have Him do unto you. But there is a Diamond Rule. I have brought these rules out before.<sup>12</sup> Christ gave the Golden Rule, but we do not know who gave it that title.

Let me give you the Diamond Rule: “do unto God as if He were you, a human, and you were He, God.” Just think about that a while. What if our roles were reversed and you were God the Father and He was you? It is interesting to think of it that way.

Do you know in one way that actually occurred? When Christ Jesus left His glory in heaven and became a human being and came down here in the lowest of rank, so to speak, despised by the world, and finally crucified on the tree of crucifixion, do you know He was a human being and He now knows how it is to be a human being. When you go to Christ now in heaven through your prayers, He knows what it is like so in a way He has become a human and you have become above Him in one way of looking at it.<sup>13</sup>

### *Who You Are*

In actual fact you have to know who you are. The Gospel tells us that you were “**in Christ**” before the foundation of the world, as far as God the Father is concerned (Ephesians 1:3–6). You were with Christ when He entered this world. When He was circumcised, you were circumcised; that is, God recognizes that fact. When Jesus was baptized some 30 years later you were baptized by no less than John the Baptist. When He was crucified on the tree of crucifixion, you were crucified with Him. That is what the Bible says. When He was resurrected from the dead, you were legally resurrected from the dead back there. When He passed the judgment and God the Father said “Sit on my right hand, Son,” and He went right up and sat down, and you were right there with Him, and you are there right at this very moment, as it says in Ephesians:

**“Even when we were dead in sins, has quickened us together with Christ, And has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”**

• *Ephesians 2:5–7*

That is where we legally are at the present time.

Do you know that you are in a sense like God at the present? If you are like God at the present, you are a member of His royal family. You have that knowledge. Others do not have that knowledge. They are in the same boat you are, but they do not have the knowledge. It is just like a child of 2 years of age being born into a royal family like in England. At 2 years of age a child has no knowledge of what the potential of that

<sup>12</sup> For a bit more detail see Dr. Martin’s article “[The Diamond Rule](#).” DWS

<sup>13</sup> You never had to, nor will any of us have to, empty ourselves of glory like Christ did by His coming in the flesh. Paul commands (in the imperative) that we have that same attitude and mind of Christ who was willing to give up His glory for us (Philippians 2:5–15). DWS

rank actually means. They have to grow up and understand it after a while, and then only when they become young adults can they really begin to assume responsibilities of their station.

That is the way the world is out there. They do not realize who they are. You and I do realize who we are. That is where our responsibility comes in. God expects us to tell the world when He opens the doors. We have to get the education and knowledge. That is what ASK is all about.

I feel that we have a major work to do. We do not supply much material goods to people. That is true. We do not have the means to supply material goods. I wish we had more coming in. If we did have more coming in we would put it right into the work so we could get out more teaching to the world through whatever means possible. I think we would all benefit if we did. But when God opens the doors we have to be prepared to walk through those doors.

Every single one of you has been trained and most of you have been trained in the Law. That is a wonderful thing. Instead of denigrating our past, we ought to honor it. God has placed us through some mighty traumatic experiences, every single one of us, but they have been for our good and for our learning to enable us and help us to know what the real truth is. Do you know what we have to do for every single one of them? It is to make them as free from the religions of man as you and I are free of the religions of man. We do not need the hierarchies of men. We do not need organized Christianity, or as I call it, Churchianity. We do not need those things.

We are in the family of God already and the whole world is in there if they just knew it! But they cannot act, they cannot show a response to God the Father in the way that you and I can, because they do not yet know who they are and God's plan for them. They will know that information one of these days. God will open the doors when His children, and I mean you and me, daughters and sons are ready and prepared to go, He will start opening the doors. The endtime is right on us at this present.

### *What God Is Doing*

God has gotten together a people whom He has trained. He has brought us through kindergarten. He has brought us through grade school. He has brought us through high school. He has brought us through college. We are in post-graduate studies right now. That is exactly where we are. He has caused you to know who you are. Once you know who you are, you should not have to be told to support the work of the family. You automatically know you have to do that. You do so because it is the right thing to do.

You do not want to go overboard and you do not want to go way out on a limb or something like that. You want to be prudent in how you give up some of your possessions to be able to see how others in the world can know of this glorious truth that God has given to you and me.<sup>14</sup>

You have benefitted tremendously from understanding the truth. Wouldn't you want to share that benefit with some other people next door to you or around the world, to bring them more into the family and into the knowledge of the family? You do not have to be told what to do if you are members of the family, do you?

You and I do not need any commissions. Do you know who needs the commissions? Those whom God has to pick to do a job on an earthly plane? Yes, He has given many prophets. They did a great job. I am not condemning them; I am commending them. He made a little more than 12 apostles, and they have done a fine and wonderful job. One did not, but most did. I am commending them. They received commissions from God.

Do you know who you are? You are members now, and we know this, of that very family in heaven sitting on the right hand of the father in Christ Jesus. If you know you are a member of that royal family,

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<sup>14</sup> If you are learning the truths of God only for your benefit, to save yourself, then you need to examine yourself as to your motives and priorities, and your relationship to God. The apostle Paul tells us to do that very thing in 2 Corinthians 13:5:

**“Examine yourselves, whether you be in the faith; prove [test] your own selves. Know you not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except you be reprobates?”**

then be about your Father's business. We need to get this work of ASK doing even more than we are doing at present. I want to see that we have, and you want to see, and I know that God the Father and Christ want to see, us have an educated people, people who really understand the truth, who are there just waiting to be able to get out the truth.

I am still enthusiastic. We need to build a fire under ourselves so we might be able to get out this Gospel to the world (Philippians 2:12–16). You will benefit. In fact you are the first one who will benefit because when the family benefits, you do also. We need to realize who we are. We are members of the royal family of God. Let us be about our Father's business.<sup>15</sup> Let us get this work of ASK going even more.

Thank you so much for all the help you have given in the past. I hope you will continue to support us as best you possibly can so we can get this message to the rest of the world, so they can learn to fish and not be hungry anymore.

## *Conclusion*

This is an age of discovery. We are now at the period where God is beginning to open up knowledge and understanding as never before. That is why I wanted to give you a concluding portion on “How to Give to God.” We have to get in there ourselves and get behind the getting out of the Gospel in the best way we know how.

The time is coming when we in the family of God have got to start to realize how important it is to get out the Gospel message. It must start with us. I told you that you must be the first one to benefit from the understanding of the knowledge of the Gospel. You must be the one that gets educated. You must grow in grace and in knowledge (2 Peter 3:18). As you grow in grace and in knowledge you will find that you become stronger. When you become stronger in the truth, then is when you are able to help with the weak.

That is the position that all of us are in at the present time. My goodness, have we had experiences in the past. Many of us have been 30, 35, and 40 years in some cases in understanding the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have gone through the kindergarten phase through the collegiate phase. Right now we are in a position to help this world. That is why I believe that in the next few years we will see an absolute revolution in the understanding of the Gospel of Christ Jesus. There will be no question about it.

God is soon, according to prophecy, going to open up a Spirit of grace and of supplication in the city of Jerusalem. From Jerusalem it will spread throughout the entire world. You and I will all be caught up in this, and thankfully so. We are being prepared for something. I need you to get behind me as brothers and sisters of us here at ASK so we can do our best to get out the knowledge of what Christ Jesus will be doing in the next few years.

We are coming into the time called “the end of the age.” It is a time of perplexity, a time of uncertainty. When you look in the world today with the newest elections in the United States [in the early 1990s], some are beginning to wonder, just where are we going? The Bible is clear and plain. Jesus Christ and God the Father are absolutely in control of everything that is going on down here below. They are getting ready to remove the blinders off of the eyes of the people of this world. Their ears will be able to hear the message of God. That is where you and I come into all of this. We have been trained as special people to understand the intricacies of the Holy Scripture.

I mean you. I am not talking about anybody else. I mean you. I mean me. I mean the rest of us. The Gospel is very simple when you get down to it. It is not complicated at all. Surely the apostle Paul was someone that many people feel is someone who is very difficult to understand. Even the apostle Peter said that in 2 Peter 3:15–18.

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<sup>15</sup> As per Jesus' example in Luke 2:49. He is the Captain of our salvation, both in priority and leadership (Hebrews 2:10–12).  
DWS

But when you really look at Paul's Gospel, the teaching that he gave, when you really analyze it completely and thoroughly, it all comes down to a simple fact. About 7 points will absolutely make the Gospel of Christ given by the apostle Paul to be understood completely. What it means is this: this is the fullness of the Gospel that Paul gave in the Mystery which was given about 63 AD onwards. That is that you and I, and indeed the whole world (but they do not know it yet) that we all were "**in Christ**" before the foundation of this world, before you and I ever came into existence, before you and I were born, you and I were known personally. You can ask how do I know that, and all the intricacies of how that can be done and how that will be done? God did not tell me details about how He will do it, but He has told me absolutely in His Scripture in the first chapter of the Book of Ephesians that it was and will be done.<sup>16</sup>

You and I were picked before the foundation of this world to be "**in Christ.**" When He came into this world some 2,000 years ago you came into the world with Him, legally. When He was circumcised, you were circumcised. He was the substitute for you. The circumcision that really counts is the one Christ Jesus underwent some 2,000 years ago as a baby boy of 8 days of age. That applies to women as well as men because we are talking about spiritual principles.

When Jesus was baptized at 30 years of age by John the Baptist, you were baptized. That is how our Father looks at it. The one baptism the apostle Paul writes about in Ephesians chapter 4 is the only baptism that you need. When Christ lived His life of preaching and taught in Judea, in Samaria, in Galilee, up in the coasts of Sidon and Tyre, all of those regions, when He was preaching the Gospel, do you know that God the Father looks on you as being there in Him and with Him at that very time.

When He was crucified on that tree of crucifixion you were crucified with Him. When He was resurrected from the dead, legally you were resurrected. When He passed the judgment and God the Father said to Him, sit on my right hand Son, He came right over and because of His perfection He sat on the right hand of the Father. In Ephesians 2:5 God looks on you and me as having gone through the same experience with Christ Jesus. When we die and our resurrections take place at His return we will be in that very position with Christ Jesus.

That is what the teaching of the Gospel is all about. You will find that in Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, and other areas of the New Testament. It is really quite simple when you get down to it. Even a child can understand the Gospel. We need to understand this: the world has to receive this teaching. Why do we want to give it to the world? Why does God want to give it to the world? It is because the very reason for our existence is to become members of the very family of God in heaven.

It is amazing to me to realize that I can be in an airplane for 11 hours and it can go from one continent to another, but this earth is just a small speck within our own solar system. There are over 100 billion solar systems in our one galaxy and there are many times over 100 billion galaxies in God's physical creation. I just rehearse these things so you can realize how important you are. I am talking about you personally. That is why we who are members of the family of God, both male and female, are brothers and sisters of Christ Jesus, and He is our elder brother (the captain of our salvation, Hebrews 2:10), and our Father is right there at the helm guiding the entire process.

We are here to rule this universe. We need to tell the people in the world why they are here. God has given us the opportunity to do it. I hope we will all get behind this getting the Gospel out to the world. God Almighty is working in you, He is working in us. You will benefit — and so will the entire world.

Ernest L. Martin, 1992

Edited by David Sielaff, May 2011

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<sup>16</sup> Dr. Martin later came to understand that the process of God's selection was by a lottery. Of course, you and I were not party to the lottery, just the results. See chapter 25, "[How Were We Chosen?](#)" from Dr. Martin's book *The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine* (Portland, OR: ASK Publications, 2001/2004). DWS