

Begin With the End in Mind

Years ago Stephen Covey wrote a bestselling business book entitled, “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.” One of the seven habits was, “**Begin with the end in mind.**” As we approach our offering here at the start of the New Year I thought it might be good for us to consider this truth.

Our offering accomplishes two things. First your generosity allows us to fund all the various missions and ministry initiatives God has given to us. We are attempting to **INSERT YOUR MISSION STATEMENT!** Making budget will allow us to more easily accomplish this vision. So, we never apologize for asking you to give. Your gifts help us advance the Kingdom of God.

Our offering accomplishes another thing, allowing you to receive a blessing! There are multiple promises in Scripture that those that give will receive a blessing. Consider what the prophet Malachi said in Malachi 3:10 says, 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.”

Listen to the words of Jesus who said, “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.”

How does beginning with the need in mind apply to today’s offering? As a church we want to achieve all that we feel God has laid upon our hearts. Your giving today helps us stay on budget and accomplish that.

You are praying for a successful year personally. Giving generously allows the windows of Heaven to open up for you pouring out a blessing that will give you the opportunity for success in that which God has laid upon your heart. Giving God the First Fruits of all we make gives us His blessing that ensure true success.

So, let’s begin with the end in mind and give generously today!