

## Being Generous Pays Off

**As we get ready to take up our offering today did you know that if you give you have a better chance of being healthier and living longer?** It's true! A recent study found that those who give lived longer and were healthier than those that did not. Another study found that generous people are happier people. I love it when science confirms what the Bible has been teaching us for years. When you give you receive.

The Good News translation of Psalms 37:21 - 25 says, "The wicked borrow and never pay back, but good people are generous with their gifts. Those who are blessed by the LORD will possess the land, but those who are cursed by him will be driven out. The LORD guides us in the way we should go and protects those who please him. If they fall, they will not stay down, because the LORD will help them up. I am old now; I have lived a long time, but I have never seen good people abandoned by the LORD or their children begging for food. At all times they give freely and lend to others, and their children are a blessing."

**Often people will say they cannot afford to give.** Yet if you look at Scripture and now science the truth of the matter is, you can't afford NOT to give! Here in this building we have some of the most generous people in the world. None of those that are generous have had their children begging for bread. They are living testimonies to the fact that generosity pays off!

**Our motivation to give is to bless others but it doesn't hurt that we in turn are blessed!** So as we take up the offering be generous today. Today's gift could well start you on the road to a long and happy life!