

GIVE

One of my favorite sayings is, "Give not till it hurts, give till it feels good."

Yes, give, then give more, and then give again. Give until it feels good. Give until you feel the value and the joy of giving. Once you know and understand the joy of giving, your life will then become one of great meaning and great giving.

Giving means sharing your wealth. It comes in three forms:

- Time
- Talent
- Treasure

Some people refer to it as:

- Work
- Wisdom
- Wealth

No, giving does not mean just money. There is far far more to give than money. Sure, people, institutions, and organizations need money and we are all asked to give money. Yes, it also feels good to give money. It is not the money, it is the good that it does. It is the benefit that it provides for others.

We all have wealth, and we all have different proportions of the types of wealth discussed above. We can all give one or more of the forms of wealth regardless of how much or how little we have of one or more of the above.

Giving comes in so many shapes and forms we may not all recognize it. Giving is something we can and should do each and every day.

Giving is such as:

- helping someone across the street
- stopping to talk to a lonely person
- calling someone who needs a call
- being a welcome listener
- coaching someone
- teaching someone a new skill
- reaching out to someone in need

Organizing a fund drive or participating in it
Working for your religious organization
giving time, talent, treasure (money or things)

Giving does not take long and can be done on the fly. We all have time to give of ourselves.

What about when someone gave to you? Remember how you felt when someone reached out to you? Perhaps it was a call, a visit, a meal delivered, time spent in helping you to learn, or just a smile. Yes, just giving a smile can touch someone and give them a boost. Think of the small things people have done that you remember and appreciate.

So, others have helped you, given to you, and you remember it. Well, how about doing the same for someone else? How about giving something back at least once a day? It will make your day of great value to the other person and also to you.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life, that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself."

Give of yourself. Give not till it hurts, give till it feels good.