

Money Practice

Giving

/ˈgɪvɪŋ/



ADJECTIVE: giving

1. providing love or other emotional support; caring.
2. affectionate and generous where one's feelings are concerned

VERB: giving

- : to accord or yield to another
- : to put into the possession of another for his or her use
- : to designate as a share or portion

Journal On Giving

1. How I practice giving in my life is by:

2. I over-give when:

3. I under-give when:

4. One way I can better open myself to the energy of giving is:

WAYS WE CAN GIVE
with our time
with our life force energy
with our money
all three of these ways count



Thinking Out Loud Thoughts:

- ♥ Sometimes we can get stuck in a giving pattern, where we believe we “have to give” in a certain way. This isn’t true, we can switch the form in which we give...instead of giving of our time, we can give of our money...instead of giving of our money, we can give of our time...it all depends on how creative we want to be...and if we are in a temporary deficit in our lives with money...then we can give of our time instead, rather than going into debt, by over giving

- ♥ Giving and receiving is a process of circulation...make a decision that any time you come into contact with anyone, you will give them something. It doesn’t have to be in the form of a material thing, it could be a flower, a compliment, or a blessing. Giving the gift of caring, attention, affection, appreciation, and love are some of the most precious gifts you can give, and they don’t cost you any money. This keeps wealth circulating in your life. (Deepak Chopra-Seven Spiritual Laws of Success)

- ♥ Commit to gratefully receive all the gifts that life has to offer you...the tangible and intangible...for when you are a great receiver of a gift, you give to the one who is giving you the gift, whether that is the Divine, a friend or a stranger.

♥ Giving is done best, when given from the heart, out of love and deep caring...instead of giving from the head, out of obligation and duty.

♥ When we practice daily acts of giving, we are saying out loud, with our behavior, “There is abundance in my life. I experience enough and can share this enough-ness with others. Practical every day giving can be simple loving acts. Some examples are: opening a door for a stranger, paying a bridge toll for the car behind you, gifting another the energy of your smile, complimenting another, encouraging another, holding another in blessings of well-being, volunteering, giving one money.

What the Great Teachers Tell Us About Giving

Confucius on Giving

Confucian school of thought on giving—namely, that we have a series of obligations that flow outward. *The general argument of Confucius is this: our first responsibility is not to be a charitable case ourselves*, and once we have our personal matters settled, our obligations flow outward: you take care of your spouse, then kids, then parents, then extended family and closest friends, then friends, then acquaintances, then your township, city, state, and so on.

Jesus On Giving

Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. When you give, especially to the needy, don't toot your own horn. That's what hypocrites do. When you give to the needy, just do it and be thankful to the Father that you are able to do so."

"Each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper." This means at least two things: (1) since we are all supposed to give proportionately, those who have more money are expected to give more [we who are particularly blessed materially must remember this], and (2) the Lord never asks us to give what we do not have, or contribute beyond our means.

"God loves a cheerful giver." The Lord takes a special delight in those who are joyful, energetic, merry givers. Is there joy in your heart as you give? Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

The Torah on Giving

Although we generally associate the Mitzvah of Tzedakah (means giving to the needy) with giving money, the mitzvah encompasses all forms of kindness. Tzedakah can be as basic as offering someone a lift or shlepping a friend's heavy load. Tzedakah can also take forms that are more "spiritual" — cheering up a friend who is depressed, or sharing your knowledge or insights with another. Whatever form it takes, the Torah regards preserving the dignity and self-respect of the receiver as a cornerstone of tzedakah.

The Torah's Levels of Giving In Highest Order to Lesser Order

Level One: Helping someone become self-sufficient.

Level Two: Giving anonymously, where the recipient does not know the giver and vice versa.

Level Three: The giver knows the recipient, but the recipient does not know the giver.

Level Four: The recipient knows the giver, but the giver does not know the recipient.

Level Five: Giving before you are asked.

Level Six: Giving generously, but only after being asked.

Level Seven: Giving less than you can afford, but doing so pleasantly.

Level Eight: Giving grudgingly, with a sour countenance.

Koran on Giving

Several different categories of charity are defined in Islam, the two most important being Zakat (obligatory charity) and Sadaqa (voluntary charity).

Zakat is a specific, standardized percentage of one's extra wealth (over and above the necessities of life) that must be given to the poor and those in need. Sadaqa can be given to anyone in many forms including a smile, wise advice, or helping to build a home or masjid.

The Prophet said: "Your smile for your brother is a charity. Your removal of stones, thorns or bones from the paths of people is a charity. Your guidance of a person who is lost is a charity." (Bukhari)



“If you get, give. If you learn, teach.”

— MAYA ANGELOU