THE QUESTION

What did the early Christians teach about generosity, and is it part of God's nature?

Asked by a THF member on September 20, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 11 numbered quotations · the 34 early Christian passages and 184 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-christians-teach-about-generosity-and-is-it-part-of-gods

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

Yes. The early writers taught that the love of giving belongs to God, who shares His gifts with everyone, good and evil alike. Christ widened the law: give to all who ask, share with the poor, give gladly, and give to those who cannot repay. In this way believers become like their Father.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 7

The love of giving belongs to God

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria quotes Paul's words about a cheerful giver and the Lord's command to give to all who ask. He then says that such a love of giving truly belongs to God. Generosity is not only a duty; it reflects what God is like.

1 “But greater than this is what the Lord said in another place: "Give to everyone who asks you." For such love of giving truly belongs to God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 31 (c. 190–215 AD) *THF's updated English* **Source 11, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 2 OF 7

God shares His gifts with everyone

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian points to sunlight, rain and wind as gifts God gives to all people without shutting anyone out. Origen adds that God sends sun and rain on the evil and the good, and urges us to act the same way and share what we enjoy with all.

2 “For whatever is of God is common for our use, and no one is shut out from His benefits and gifts, so as to keep the whole human race from equally enjoying the divine goodness and generosity.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) *THF's updated English* **Source 18, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**

3 “He also urges us to act in the same way, so that we may become His sons, and teaches us to extend the benefits we enjoy, as far as we can, to all men.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 28 (c. 215–254 AD) *THF's updated English* **Source 15, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**

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POINT 3 OF 7

Christ widened the law into sharing

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus says the Lord did not abolish the law but widened it. Instead of only tithing, Christ told His followers to share all they have with the poor, to love even enemies, and to do good to others so that they become like the Father.

4

"And for this reason the Lord, instead of the commandment, "You shall not commit adultery," also forbade even lust; and instead of "You shall not kill," He prohibited anger; and instead of the law requiring the giving of tithes, He instructed us to share all our possessions with the poor; and to love not only our neighbors, but even our enemies; and not just to be generous givers, but even to offer a gift to those who take away our belongings."

later in the same passage

"And if anyone," He says, "compels you to go a mile, go with him two;" so that you may not follow him as a slave, but may go ahead as a free person, showing yourself in everything to be kind and useful to your neighbor, not considering their evil intentions, but performing your kind acts, becoming like the Father, "who makes His sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and unjust.""

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 6, page 6 Read it in the library ›

POINT 4 OF 7

Give to everyone who asks

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Didache, an early church manual, and the Shepherd of Hermas both repeat Christ's command to give to all who ask. Both explain it by pointing to God: the Father wants His gifts shared with everyone. Those who take without real need answer to God for it.

5

"Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for it back. For the Father wills that everyone should be given something from our own free gifts."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 (c. 50–120 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 1, page 6 Read it in the library ›

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6 “Give to everyone, for God wants His gifts to be shared among all.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 3, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

Give gladly, not under pressure

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus says Christians should give as free people who are glad to help, not as people forced to give. Clement of Alexandria adds that true riches come from giving away, not from keeping, and calls generosity a fruit of the Spirit.

7 “For “to him who takes away your coat,” He says, “give him your cloak also; and from him who takes away your goods, do not ask for them back; and as you would have others do to you, do to them:” so that we may not grieve like those unwilling to be wronged, but rejoice as those who give willingly, acting as if conferring a favor upon our neighbors rather than yielding to necessity.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 6, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

8 “So it is not he who has and keeps, but he who gives away, that is rich. And it is giving away, not possession, that makes a man happy.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Instructor* 3.6 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 12, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Give to those who cannot repay

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Lactantius answers the Roman writer Cicero, who advised giving only to people who could return the favor. Lactantius says true justice gives most to those who can give nothing back, such as the blind, the weak and the poor, because God values them.

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9 “For we must bestow our generosity not on suitable persons, but as much as possible on unsuitable persons.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 11 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 33, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

10 “Give especially to the man from whom you hope for nothing in return. Why do you choose persons?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 11 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 32, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

Give quietly, not for praise

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tatian's harmony of the Gospels sets out Christ's teaching that alms should be given in secret. Giving to be seen by others already has its reward, but the Father who sees in secret rewards hidden giving.

11 “So when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and the marketplaces, so that people may praise them.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 9 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 5, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not set a fixed amount or percentage that Christians must give.
- Some writers say gifts should go to those truly in need, so they do not settle every question about giving to people who ask without need.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

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WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 34 early Christian passages and 184 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–34, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 35–119, in Bible order), then 99 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *34 passages from 14 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** "the Father wills that to all should be given of our own blessings (free gifts… [continues online] **read ›**

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle of Barnabas* (1885 English; on point 4) shalt not hesitate to give, nor murmur when thou givest. "Give to every one that asketh thee… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 3–4*

3 *Shepherd* (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 4** "to all, for God wishes His gifts to be shared among all… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 4) "on this account their bodies waste away… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 5*

5 *Diatessaron* 9 **Quote 11, page 5** 6:1 Consider your alms. Do not do them before people so they may see you. If you do, you have no reward from your Father who is in heaven… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 6–8*

6 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) **Quotes 4, 7, pages 3, 4** "not merely to be liberal givers and bestowers, but even that we should present a gratuitous gift to those who take away our goods… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Against Heresies: Book III* Cornelius was described as a "devout man, one who feared God with all his house, giving much to charity and praying to God always." Around the ninth hour of the… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English; on point 2) "the love of God, being rich and ungrudging, confers upon the suppliant more than he can ask from it… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 9–13*

9 *Stromata* 2.18 (1885 English) "God, the author and the dispenser of such grace, takes as suitable usury the most precious things to be found among men— mildness, gentleness, magnanimity, reputation, renown… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Exhortation to the Heathen* 10 nothing but himself and God, where there is neither moth, nor robber, nor pirate, but the eternal Giver of good. Matthew 6:20-21. So you have rightly been compared… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 31 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "accordingly, also is the apostle's saying, For the Lord loves a cheerful giver… [continues online] **read ›**

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12 *Instructor* 3.6 **Quote 8, page 4** "the fruit of the Spirit is generosity… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Stromata* 4.6 habit of our old way of life what we have acquired by it, and have recourse to God, begging for mercy. He truly is "the bag that does not grow… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · source 14*

14 *On Prayer* 7 (1885 English; on point 2) "was suitable that, after contemplating the liberality of God, we should likewise address His clemency… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 15*

15 *Against Celsus* 28 (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 2** "other statements, in keeping with the character of the Jews, might be made by some of that nation, but certainly not by the Christians, who have been taught that God… [continues online] **read ›**

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · sources 16–17*

16 *Oration to Origen* 1 (1885 English; on point 5) "as I judge, the sacred word has not set up the large outward quantity of the substance given, but rather the mind and disposition of the giver, as the standard… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Metaphrase of Ecclesiastes* 11 (1885 English) "it is a righteous thing to give (to the needy) of your bread, and of those things which are necessary for the support of man's life… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 18–21*

18 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** "which example of equality, he who, as a possessor in the earth, shares his returns and his fruits with the fraternity, while he is common and just in his gratuitous… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 5) "there is done in God's sight a thing that pleases God: promptly and liberally is presented what is asked for, Neither is it a portion out of abundance, but… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Treatises* (1885 English) "Corinthians 9:12 because, while thanks are directed to God for our almsgivings and labours, by the prayer of the poor, the wealth of the doer is increased by the… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Treatises* in truth, and do before Him what pleases Him. And command your sons to practice righteousness and almsgiving, and to be mindful of God, and always bless His name." Tobit… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 22–27*

22 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 4) "those who are in affliction, may, as a good steward, give each one his portion of the gift. For God knows the giver, even though you distribute it to those… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) "the Lord will bless the works of your hands, and will multiply the good things of the land… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 7) as a wise person, hide her own name. She must not sound a trumpet before herself, so that her alms may be with God in secret, as the Lord says… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 2) limit to Your understanding. You are our Creator and Savior, rich in benefits, patient, and the giver of mercy. You do not take away Your salvation from Your creatures, for… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Apostolic Constitutions* him also be merciful, for again it is said: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 4) "Since even the Lord said: The giver was happier than the receiver… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 28*

28 *Disputation with Manes* 1 those soldiers were filled with wonder and admiration at the greatness of the man's piety and generosity. They were amazed and felt the power of this example of compassion… [continues online] **read ›**

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Arnobius, *c. 290–330 AD · source 29*

29 *Against the Heathen* 1 (on point 2) yet everyone agrees that Christ performed all those miracles He did without any help from outward things, without observing any ceremony, and without any fixed method of procedure. He did… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 30–34*

30 *Divine Institutes* 17 (1885 English; on point 6) “thus they distinguish between the liberal man and the prodigal: that he is liberal who bestows on deserving objects, and on proper occasions, and in sufficient quantities… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Divine Institutes* 12 (on point 6) “is a great and noble act of justice, and the same Tullius also approved of it. He says that this generosity is useful even to the state: captives should be… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Divine Institutes* 11 (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 5** “you confess in the books of your Laws that liberality is gratuitous, in these words: Nor is it doubtful that he who is called liberal and generous is influenced by… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *Divine Institutes* 11 **Quote 9, page 5** “he speaks like this: “Generosity that comes from our own property drains the very source of our liberality, and so liberality is destroyed by liberality. For the more people there… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *Divine Institutes* 13 and as far as you can, heal your wounds. But do not think that, because offenses are removed by generosity, you are given permission to sin. For sins are taken… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *85 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

35 **Genesis 33:11** Take my blessings that I have brought to you, because God has had mercy on me, and I have all things.” And Jacob urged him, and he took them. **read ›**

36 **Leviticus 21:22** He may eat the gifts of God, the most holy things, and of the holy things; **read ›**

37 **Deuteronomy 15:8** You shall surely open your hands to him, and you shall surely lend him as much as he needs, according to what he lacks. **read ›**

38 **Deuteronomy 15:10** You shall surely give to him, and you shall surely lend him as much as he needs, according to what he lacks; and you shall not be grieved in your heart when you give to him, because for this thing the Lord your God will bless you in all your works and in everything to which you put your hand. **read ›**

39 **Deuteronomy 15:14** You shall surely supply him with provisions for the journey from your flock, from your grain, and from your wine; as the Lord your God has blessed you, you shall give to him. **read ›**

40 **Deuteronomy 16:17** each one according to the ability of your hands, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you. **read ›**

41 **1 Chronicles 29:9** The people rejoiced over their willing offering, because with a full heart they had offered willingly to the Lord; and King David also rejoiced greatly. **read ›**

42 **1 Chronicles 29:17** And I know, O Lord, that you are the one who searches hearts, and you love righteousness. In sincerity of heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now I have seen with gladness your people who are present here offering willingly to you. **read ›**

43 **Psalms 4:7** You have put gladness into my heart; from the fruit of their grain and wine and oil they have been multiplied. (Septuagint Psalm 4:8 (Psalm 4:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

44 **Psalms 12:8** The ungodly walk all around; according to your loftiness you have greatly cared for the sons of men. (Septuagint Psalm 11:9 (Psalm 12:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

45 **Proverbs 11:24** There are some who scatter their own and increase it; and there are also some who gather and have less. **read ›**

46 **Proverbs 11:25** Every simple soul is blessed, but a hot-tempered man is not graceful. **read ›**

47 **Proverbs 19:6** Many pay court to the faces of kings, but every bad man becomes a disgrace to a man. **read ›**

48 **Proverbs 19:17** He who has mercy on the poor lends to God, and he will repay him according to his gift. **read ›**

49 **Proverbs 22:9** He who has mercy on the poor will himself be nourished, for he has given of his own bread to the poor. He who gives gifts gains victory and honor, but he carries off the soul of the owners. **read ›**

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50 **Isaiah 2:8** And the land was filled with abominations, the works of their hands, and they worshiped what their fingers had made. **read ›**

51 **Isaiah 5:24** Therefore, as stubble shall be burned by a coal of fire and be consumed by a flame let loose, their root shall be like chaff, and their blossom shall go up like dust; for they did not desire the law of the Lord of hosts, but provoked the oracle of the Holy One of Israel. **read ›**

52 **Isaiah 32:5** And they will never again tell the fool to rule, and your servants will never again say, ‘Be silent.’ **read ›**

53 **Isaiah 32:8** But the godly have devised wise things, and this counsel will stand. **read ›**

54 **Jeremiah 30:24** The anger of the Lord’s wrath shall by no means turn back until he has acted and until he has carried out the purpose of his heart; in the last days you shall know these things. (Septuagint Jeremiah 37:24 (Jeremiah 30:24 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

55 **Jeremiah 36:21** The king sent Jehudi to take the scroll; and he took it from the house of Elishama, and Jehudi read it in the ears of the king and in the ears of all the rulers who stood around the king. (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:21 (Jeremiah 36:21 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

56 **Jeremiah 36:26** The king commanded Jerahmeel the king’s son and Seraiah the son of Azriel to seize Baruch and Jeremiah; but they were hidden. (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:26 (Jeremiah 36:26 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

57 **Lamentations 1:6** Waw. And from the daughter of Zion all her majesty has been taken away; her rulers became like rams that find no pasture, and they went on without strength before the pursuer. **read ›**

58 **Ezekiel 20:29** And I said to them, ‘What is Bamah, that you go in there?’ And they called its name Bamah, to this day. **read ›**

59 **Ezekiel 31:2** Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his multitude: To whom have you compared yourself in your height? **read ›**

60 **Ezekiel 33:26** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

61 **Daniel 3:9** “O king, live forever! **read ›**

62 **Daniel 11:17** And he shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and he shall make all things straight with him; and he shall give him a daughter of women to ruin her; but she shall by no means remain, and she shall not be his. **read ›**

63 **Daniel 11:26** and they shall eat his provisions and crush him; and he shall sweep away armies as with a flood, and many shall fall slain. **read ›**

64 **Obadiah 1:1** The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God to Idumea: I have heard a report from the Lord, and he has sent out a summons to siege among the nations: “Arise, and let us rise up against her to war.” **read ›**

65 **1 Esdras 5:54** They gave money to the stonecutters and carpenters, and drink and food, **read ›**

66 **Tobit 4:7** Give alms from your possessions, and do not let your eye be envious when you give alms. Do not turn your face away from any poor man, and the face of God will certainly not be turned away from you. **read ›**

67 **Tobit 12:8** Prayer is good with fasting and alms and righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than much with unrighteousness. It is better to give alms than to lay up gold. **read ›**

68 **Tobit 12:9** For alms delivers from death, and it will purge away every sin. Those who do acts of alms and righteous deeds will be filled with life; **read ›**

69 **Wisdom of Solomon 7:28** For God loves nothing but the one who lives with wisdom. **read ›**

70 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:19** And through such works you taught your people that the righteous man must love mankind, and you made your sons of good hope, that you give repentance for sins. **read ›**

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71 **Wisdom of Sirach 1:1** Since many great things have been given to us through the Law and the Prophets and the others who followed after them, for which Israel ought to be praised for its instruction and wisdom; and since not only must those who read become knowledgeable themselves, but lovers of learning must also be able to be of use to those outside, both by speaking and by writing: my grandfather Jesus, having given himself more and more to the reading of the Law and the Prophets and the other books of our fathers, and having gained considerable skill in them, was himself also led to write something pertaining to instruction and wisdom, so that lovers of learning, having become devoted to these things as well, might make still greater progress by living according to the law. You are urged, therefore, to read with goodwill and attention, and to be forgiving wherever, despite our diligent labor in translating, we may seem to fall short in some of the expressions; for what is said in Hebrew does not have the same force when it is brought over into another language. And not only these things, but the Law itself and the prophecies and the rest of the books differ not a little when they are spoken in their own language. For in the thirty-eighth year, in the reign of King Euergetes, having come into Egypt and stayed there some time, I found a copy of no small instruction; and I myself thought it most necessary to apply some diligence and labor to the translation of this book, bringing much watchfulness and skill to it in that space of time, in order to complete the book and publish it also for those living abroad who wish to love learning, preparing their character beforehand to live according to the law. All wisdom is from the Lord, and is with him forever. **read ›**

72 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:30** Water will quench a blazing fire, and an act of mercy will make atonement for sins. **read ›**

73 **Wisdom of Sirach 7:10** Do not be faint-hearted in your prayer, and do not neglect to do acts of mercy. **read ›**

74 **Wisdom of Sirach 11:17** The gift of the Lord remains with the godly, and his good pleasure will prosper forever. **read ›**

75 **Wisdom of Sirach 11:22** The blessing of the Lord is in the reward of the godly, and in a swift hour he makes his blessing blossom. **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Sirach 14:13** Before you die, do good to a friend, and according to your strength reach out and give to him. **read ›**

77 **Wisdom of Sirach 16:14** He will make room for every act of mercy; each one will find according to his works. **read ›**

78 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:14** And he said to them, ‘Beware of all unrighteousness’; and he gave each of them commandment concerning his neighbor. **read ›**

79 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:29** How great is the mercy of the Lord, and atonement for those who turn to him! **read ›**

80 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:11** Therefore the Lord has been patient with them, and has poured out his mercy upon them. **read ›**

81 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:13** The mercy of man is toward his neighbor, but the mercy of the Lord is upon all flesh, rebuking and disciplining and teaching, and turning them back, as a shepherd his flock. **read ›**

82 **Wisdom of Sirach 20:15** He gives little and insults much, and opens his mouth like a herald; today he lends, and tomorrow he will demand it back; such a man is hateful. **read ›**

83 **Wisdom of Sirach 22:23** Gain the trust of your neighbor in his poverty, so that you may be filled together with him in his good things; stand by him in a time of trouble, so that you may share his inheritance with him. **read ›**

84 **Wisdom of Sirach 26:4** Whether rich or poor, his heart is good, and at every time his face is cheerful. **read ›**

85 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:1** He who shows mercy will lend to his neighbor, and he who gives strength with his hand keeps the commandments. **read ›**

86 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:8** Yet be patient with a man in humble circumstances, and do not keep him waiting for an act of mercy. **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:9** For the commandment’s sake help the poor man, and in his need do not send him away empty. **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

90 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

91 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

93 **Wisdom of Sirach 34:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

94 **Wisdom of Sirach 40:17** Grace is like a garden in blessings, and an act of mercy endures forever. **read ›**

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95 **Wisdom of Sirach 40:24** Brothers and help are for a time of trouble, but above both an act of mercy will deliver. **read ›**

96 **4 Maccabees 2:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

97 **4 Maccabees 5:24** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

98 **1 Enoch 1:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

99 **Matthew 5:7** Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. **read ›**

100 **Matthew 6:2** Therefore, when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before yourself, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may get glory from men. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. **read ›**

101 **Luke 3:11** He answered them, “Let him who has two tunics share with him who has none, and let him who has food do likewise.” **read ›**

102 **Luke 6:30** Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask him who takes away your goods to give them back again. **read ›**

103 **Luke 6:36** Therefore be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate. **read ›**

104 **Luke 6:38** Give, and it shall be given to you: they shall pour a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, into the fold of your clothing against your chest. For with the same measure you measure, it shall be measured back to you.” **read ›**

105 **Luke 11:41** But give what is within as alms, and behold, all things are clean to you. **read ›**

106 **Acts 20:35** In everything I showed you that by laboring in this way you must support the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” **read ›**

107 **Romans 12:8** or he who exhorts, to his exhorting; he who gives, let him do it with generosity; he who rules, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. **read ›**

108 **2 Corinthians 8:2** that in a severe trial of trouble, their abundant joy and deep poverty overflowed in the riches of their generosity. **read ›**

109 **2 Corinthians 8:3** For according to their ability, I testify, and beyond their ability, they gave willingly, **read ›**

110 **2 Corinthians 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich. **read ›**

111 **2 Corinthians 8:12** For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. **read ›**

112 **2 Corinthians 9:5** Therefore I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go to you ahead of me and arrange beforehand your previously promised generous gift, so that it might be ready as a matter of generosity and not of greed. **read ›**

113 **2 Corinthians 9:6** But this I say: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows generously will also reap generously. **read ›**

114 **2 Corinthians 9:7** Let each man give according as he has determined in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **read ›**

115 **2 Corinthians 9:9** As it is written, He has scattered widely, he has given to the needy; his righteousness endures forever. **read ›**

116 **2 Corinthians 9:11** you being enriched in everything for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us. **read ›**

117 **Ephesians 4:32** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God also forgave us in Christ. **read ›**

118 **1 Timothy 6:18** that they do good, that they be rich in good works, that they be ready to distribute, willing to share; **read ›**

119 **1 John 3:17** But whoever has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, then closes his heart of compassion against him, how does God’s love remain in him? **read ›**

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ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *99 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Exodus 20:7 · 22:25

Leviticus 19:9 · 25:4

Deuteronomy 22:10 · 26:18 · 30:15

Psalms 8:2 · 27:3

Proverbs 1:7 · 2:16 · 11:13 · 14:8

Jeremiah 21:8

Matthew 5:4 · 5:5 · 5:8 · 5:26 · 5:28 · 5:39 · 5:40 · 5:41 · 5:42 · 5:44 · 5:45 · 5:46 · 6:3 · 6:19 · 6:20 · 6:31 · 6:32 · 7:7 · 7:12 · 7:13 · 7:21 · 9:13 · 10:12 · 10:39 · 10:41 · 11:12 · 12:7 · 12:36 · 12:37 · 16:26 · 18:3 · 18:21 · 22:37 · 23:6 · 25:33

Mark 8:36 · 12:30 · 12:39

Luke 6:27 · 6:29 · 6:31 · 6:32 · 6:37 · 10:5 · 11:43 · 12:20 · 12:21 · 12:22 · 12:30 · 12:33 · 13:32 · 16:1 · 16:9 · 19:8 · 20:46 · 21:2

John 12:25

Acts 4:32

Romans 2:21 · 5:7 · 5:8 · 8:29 · 9:15 · 12:9 · 13:14

1 Corinthians 1:24 · 10:24 · 10:26

Galatians 3:24 · 6:2

Ephesians 6:9

Colossians 3:5

1 Thessalonians 5:13

1 Timothy 4:10 · 6:20

2 Timothy 3:2

Titus 3:2

Hebrews 9:14 · 10:33 · 13:17

James 1:8 · 5:4

1 Peter 2:11 · 2:17 · 3:13

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did the early Christians teach about generosity, and is it part of God's nature?” on September 20, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY