



# SHEPHERD'S DIARY

A MINISTRY OF WORD PASTURE CHURCH

Volume 12, Number 5  
MAY, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX



## James 1:5

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men liberally..."*

This scripture reveals a very powerful truth about our Heavenly Father—one we should desire to reflect. "For God so loved the world that He gave..." We all know that our God gives, and you might have been urged to become 'a giver' like our Father by a Christian elder. And that is good. But how does God give? That's what Apostle James reveals to us here. He does not just give—no, He gives in a certain way—liberally. There is a thin line between giving and liberality. A person may give and still hold back within, but a liberal soul gives from the heart without measure. In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Scripture reminds us that "God loves a cheerful giver." Again, it is clear that we must go beyond 'giving'. A liberal soul gives without holding back; he is one who gives with joy, not out of pressure or a sense of lack. Beloved, this is what God is calling us into—not just acts of giving, but a life of generosity.

Traditionally, in most Christian circles, 'giving' is all about money. That is another striking difference, because generosity goes far beyond money. It includes your time, your strength, your kindness, and even your attention. To be liberal means you should be willing, cheerful, and ready to be a blessing—at all times!

Looking at Jesus, we see this nature clearly. When He

fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes (*Matthew 14:17–21*), He did not provide just enough, there were twelve baskets of leftovers! That is overflow. That is liberality. He could have met only the immediate need, but instead, He gave beyond what was required. Also consider the widow who gave all she had (*Mark 12:41–44*). Jesus observed that while others gave out of their abundance, she gave out of her need. He declared that she had given more than all the rest. Others gave but she was liberal. How? Because of the posture of her heart. A liberal soul is not defined by how much it has, but by its willingness to give, its love and its selflessness.

Beloved, you too can develop a liberal heart, but if you constantly focus on 'your lack', you will limit your ability to be generous. To cultivate a liberal heart, you must learn to look beyond yourself and ask, "What can I do to help?" There's always something you can do!



It's not about the size of your gift, but the largeness of your heart! Resist fear and the urge to be selfish or self-centered. The Bible says in *Proverbs 11:25*, "The liberal soul shall be made fat." Notice, it does not say the one who lacks or the giver shall be made fat—no, it says the liberal soul. This fatness speaks of a life that is full, satisfied, and continually refreshed. I hope this stimulates your generosity! Hallelujah!

Take a moment, reflect on what we have discussed so far. You can give grudgingly, out of compulsion, pressure, based on financial conditions, the size of the need, from fear, or you can be liberal just like your Father in heaven, giving cheerfully, completely and freely. More grace to your heart. Amen.

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