

Let's Talk CHANGE DEVOTIONALS



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GIVERS AND TAKERS (PART 1)

Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery | December 4, 2015

"...remember the words of the Lord Jesus: it is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35 NKJV



"C.S. Lewis, the eminent English scholar, said this about Christian giving: The limit of giving is to be the limit of our ability to give." Have you heard people describe others as givers or takers? The first is a compliment the second is not. It wouldn't surprise me if an image of a giver or taker has already come to your mind. Some of us have had the experience of being both of these in our lifetime. To be clear, the use of the word taker in this case refers to someone who always looks for others to do for them or give to them as their primary mode of operation. A receiver is one who is given a gift from someone or the recipient of a giving act from another.

A taker expects to be a receiver and pursues being a receiver as often as possible. A taker usually is annoyed when expected to give to benefit others if they don't see a benefit in it. On occasion a taker may perform as a giver expecting nothing in return; however the frequency of this is very low. It is most difficult for takers to admit that is what they are as no one really wants to be seen in that light.

I've shared in the past with my former congregation how I used to operate as a taker. This is really a very selfish way to be. If someone shared something with me then I would keep it all to myself and you had better not ask me to give any of it to you. In simple terms a taker is not one who is quick to share. As an adult this stingy behavior was put in check by the Lord.

In my early days working at Home Assembly I was given a \$50 per month stipend for working at the church. It was basically gas money as I drove from Covina to Los Angeles, daily. One day I had just cashed my \$50 check and when I returned to the church office an elderly gentleman came on the grounds asking for help. He said he lost his job at the post office and showed me his ID badge as his effort to verify the story. \$50 was all he needed, he said, and he promised to pay it back. My palms became sweaty and I was most uncomfortable as I could hear the voice of the Lord saying share it with him. I wrestled with my desire not to give it as I felt it was more important I have the gas money to get back and forth. Besides, my late husband and I at the time were struggling financially as he was not earning much money as a medical intern at Women's Hospital-USC/LAC. I succumbed to the Lord's push on me to be a giver and off he went with my fifty bucks. The man never returned and the fifty dollars is gone. Nothing spectacular happened to me that day or even the weeks to follow for being generous. It did break that stingy spirit in me and I've been a giver ever since. Guess what? I've never been without since and God has blessed me to continue to give, give, and give. Try it you might like it!

Residing in Los Angeles, CA, Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery is the Emeritus Pastor of Home Assembly Church in Los Angeles, is the founder of "Celebrate Change Ministries" and the author of "My Be Attitude: Who Be You?", which is available online in softcover or eBook at MyBeAttitude.org, Xulon Press, Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Dr. Ussery is available for national speaking engagements, empowerment seminars, and lectures. For more information, CelebrateChange.org | Info@CelebrateChange.org | 866-232-8176.

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