

## How Giving Brought Life

Jack Taylor tells the story of how John D. Rockefeller, who was one of the wealthiest men of his day, was dying at age fifty-five. He was living on crackers and milk and could hardly enjoy all the wealth he had accumulated. He spent most of his time in bed and claimed to not have had an uninterrupted night of sleep in five years. He was hungry but could not eat even though he could afford the best food in the world. He was weakened by a blood disease and racked with pain from an ulcerated stomach. All his money could not buy him the one thing he needed and wanted the most, his health.

So since he was dying anyway Rockefeller decided to do something he had not done much of before, give his money away. He began to give away thousands and millions of dollars. Within twelve months of starting his giving venture he was virtually well and spent another thirty five years of living. He credited much of his miraculous healing as a result of learning to give.

Jesus said in Luke 6:38, "Give and it shall be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

This short verse contains three elements for our consideration. First there is the *command*, Give! Second the *promise*, "And it shall be given to you." Third there is the *principle*: The same measure you use will be used with you. The whole sentence hinges upon the first word, Give.

Today as we approach our offering you have an opportunity to give once again. While you may not have the wealth of Rockefeller you still have something that you can give. In God's economy it is not that we all give equal gifts but they we give an equal sacrifice. How will you respond today to God's command to give? How you respond will set the stage for blessing in your life.