

Education– GS Student Scholarships

Love Gives

It sticks out like a swollen, bandaged thumb. It's as plain as the nose on your face. It's obvious, evident, plain, visible, as clear as day, and cannot be hidden. But I didn't see it.

Anyone with a simple grasp of written language sees it. It's unmissable, and it's absolutely foundational to the Christian faith. I'm still unsure how I overlooked this two-word truth for so long.

I've spent years studying and sharing about faith and finances and generosity, yet I still missed it. Maybe I overcomplicated it or skipped right over it, but it was staring me in the face right there, under my nose, in black and white. Nothing could be clearer. But I still didn't see it.

It's embedded at the start of the Bible's most famous verse, John 3:16. Millions, maybe billions of people, have memorised it. I've heard five-year-old children say it and probably understand it. I've been able to recite this verse myself for more than forty years, and I've recited it regularly, and yet it might as well have been invisible to me. I just didn't see it.

Then, one day, there it was.

"For God so *loved* the world that He *gave* ..."

It's simple.

Love gives.

Appeal: As we return God's 10% tithe and give our Promise offerings today, remember that these gifts are our love response to the One who loved us so much that He gave. Yes, love gives—that's what it does. Let's give today because of our love for God and His work. Thank you for giving.

Local Church Budget

Timeless Truths

An elderly man once said, "Most of the wisdom that people know when they're seventy can't actually be put into words." One of the joys of aging is that over the years, we can see a build-up of evidence for certain timeless truths.

Truths such as:

- "Prevention is better than cure."
- "Money can't buy happiness."
- "Every meal either harms or heals you."
- "God's ways are the best ways always."

We usually hear these truths in our youth, but they seem too unbelievable or counter-cultural to be accurate, so we decide to live in the opposite direction for a time—just to test the truths. After a time, we realise that they really are true and that living by the truth can set us free.

However, sometimes these 'timeless truths' seem to contradict common sense. For example, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" Really? Hadn't the author ever sat around a sparkling Christmas tree waiting to receive an expensive gift? No, they hadn't. It was actually the Christ of Christmas who said it.*

After decades of observing life, older Christians will tell you that there is overwhelming evidence that it's not what we hold but what we share that makes us rich.

It truly is more blessed to give than to receive.

Appeal: As we return our tithe and offerings to God today, let's thank Him for the timeless truths in the Bible and for His Holy Spirit of Truth, Who guides us and provides for our needs.