

Free Indeed!

PART THREE - FREE TO SHARE

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John 8:31 *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*

Matthew 14:14, *And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and **He was moved with compassion** for them, and healed their sick. 15] When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that **they** may go into the villages and buy themselves food." 16] But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."*

Philippians. 4:14 *Nevertheless you have done well that you **shared in my distress**. 15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.*

One of the most defining characteristics of people who are Free Indeed is the ability and willingness to share. Sharing is not only giving, those the two words are very similar and always connected.

Give: To present voluntarily and without expecting compensation; To put into the possession of another for his or her use

Share: To have a share or part; To let someone else have or use a part of (something that belongs to you)

Giving with a heart to share is an expression of partnership and participation. Giving only is good, but may be disconnected from concern or engagement. It may also inconsistent.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians in the spirit of covenant and partnership. He was not like some preacher on TV crying crocodile tears and saying, "If you all don't send me money, I'll have to go off TV and shut down my ministry."

Other ministries only say what Jesus said, "Look at the works and service towards people. Look at the diligence to deliver God's word. Look at the lives being touched and

changed. Look at the impact of ministry, not necessary during the church service, but in the community and world.”

Paul didn't simply seek a gift, he sought a sharing, and a partnership in purpose. What Paul asked for was not for his personal benefit. He wanted to help believers receive benefit with their accounts with God.

Look at what Paul said:

Phil. 4:17, *Not that I seek the gift, **but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.** 18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. 20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

NLT, *Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness.*

NIV *what I desire is that more be credited to your account*

Barclay, *I am looking for the fruit which increases to your credit*

Today, we are very sensitive the meaning of the word, “Account.” We have all kinds of accounts nowadays. We have bank accounts, credit card accounts, health-savings accounts, voice & data accounts with our mobile phones, Amazon.com accounts.

Account defined: 1) A record of debits and credits. 2) An arrangement providing for regular dealings or services. Something we put in and things we pull out.

The biblical word for account is used a number of ways, so its meaning changes with the context: [word](#) (218x), [saying](#) (50x), [account](#) (8x), [speech](#) (8x). The basic idea of the word is something said or done that others will notice. It is a kind of reckoning or score based on what is said or done.

Sharing and giving is reflection of our love and concern for others:

1 John 3:17 (NIV), *If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?*

Sharing and giving determines our measure of receiving from God.

Luke 6:38 *Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”*

THE POWER OF SHARING AND FEEDING THE MULTITUDES

MAT 14:14, *And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and **He was moved with compassion** for them, and healed their sick. 15] When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that **they** may go into the villages and buy themselves food." 16] But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to*

eat." 17] And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." 18] He said, "Bring them here to Me." 19] Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. 17] So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets [one for each of the doubtful disciples] full of the fragments that remained. 21] Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Jesus disciples reasoned that the day was drawing to a close and that they were going to have a problem with the multitudes being hungry. Their solution: "Send them away that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." They said in their minds, "We have given enough being out here all day. We need to get out of here before this thing gets out of hand and we get stuck "up in here" with all the folk."

Jesus knew the concept of sharing and was training his disciples in the same. *"But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."*

The difference between giving and sharing is COMPASSION. Look at this statement: *MAT 14:14, And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and **He was moved with compassion** for them, and healed their sick.*

Compassion is one of the deepest forms of sharing. Compassion connects you with the needs of hurting people. Compassion releases the supernatural power and provision of God.