



Dear Beloved Child of God,

"GIVE!" It is not a suggestion but a command. "GIVE!" Just like God commands us to "LOVE! SING! GO!" Just like Micah used the imperatives to answer what it is that God requires of us, "but to "DO" justice, "LOVE" kindness, "WALK" humbly with God!" As God's child, God commands me to "GIVE!"

And do you know what I have found out when I am obedient to this command? Hope is shared. Love is spread. Kindness is embodied. Glory is proclaimed. Life is made whole. And not once, have I been left without. I have never been in a position to GIVE large sums of money, but I have been fortunate enough to GIVE what I have been able. I have never been in a position to GIVE all my time or have every talent, but I have been blessed by God to be in several situations in which the GIVING of the time and talents I do have, are able to be apart of building up and strengthening others. Making myself open and available to what God places in front of me to GIVE to is what I have learned to be the key.

From there, I trust in the good news Paul shares in *II Corinthians 9:8*, "*God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*" Also, aren't I only as good as those, including God, family, church, friends, that have given to me so graciously and abundantly throughout my life. To God be all the praise and glory and thanks- GIVING!

Sharing God's abundance leads directly to our FPC commitment to Covenant Giving: 1. Giving our Time, Talents & Skills, 2. Offering presence, prayer & participation in worship, 3. Giving financially. I thank you and encourage your gifts of time, talent and treasure.

I invite you to join me and all our church by sharing God's abundance and by making a financial and personal commitment for the calendar year 2025 to FPC.

Answering God's call to celebrate and inspire,

Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson