



**Introduction:**

- In his very insightful article, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*, Lifeway President Thom Rainer discusses several characteristics of a church that has not only lost its effectiveness but has flat-out died. The top reason for a dead church according to Rainer? The church had no community-focused ministries.
- Giving – by meeting the needs of our community – is a sign of life for any church!

*Open Hands:* **GIVING TO THOSE IN NEED**

**Followers of Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_.

...*when you give to the needy...* (Matthew 6:2a, 3a, emphasis added)

To Jesus, it is a foregone conclusion that His followers will give.

- God is a \_\_\_\_\_ God and has always delighted in acts of mercy and generosity.
- Giving was the practice of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The tradition has continued thousands of years to... \_\_\_\_\_.

**Thank you for giving to the LORD!**

**Giving to People in Need is a** \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_  
“...sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward...do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret” (v. 2b, 3b).

Here’s the great thing about giving to people in need:

**Giving to People in Need is** \_\_\_\_\_.

“And your Father who sees in secret will reward you” (v. 3b).

“Reward” is used 3 times: v. 1, 2 and 4

- However, v. 4 is actually a different Greek word. It is similar to *reward*, but a little different.

Gk. *apodosei* =

**Conclusion:**

The more we give does not mean the less we have.

The more we give, the more \_\_\_\_\_!