

# We need to give in order to receive

The great motivational speaker, Zig Ziglar, often repeated this formula for success: “If you help enough people get what they want in life, they will help you get what you want.” This formula obviously applies to the acquisition of material wealth, but it applies to the acquisition of Heavenly treasures as well. Lasting happiness, peace and contentment, both in this life and the next, result from placing the needs of others ahead of our own.

It is not sinful to seek love, happiness and financial security for ourselves. We are never told in the Scriptures that it is wrong to seek “the good life” for ourselves and our families. It is sinful, however, to covet what does not belong to us and to pursue personal gain without regard for the needs of others. As a practical matter, it so happens that the best way to acquire both material and spiritual wealth is by helping others to find it.

The best way to receive love is to give it out. The best way to receive forgiveness is to be in the habit of forgiving others. The best way to find happiness is to do things that make others happy. The best way to get that job promotion is to unselfishly do more than the job requires. The best way to learn is to become a teacher. The best way to find your way in life is to help others find their way. The best way get the other guy to agree with you is to first find ways to agree with him. And so on.

If you have needs and desires that are not being met, and who of us doesn't, then here is a practical exercise that will help you get what you want and need:

1. Make a list of your needs and desires, and prioritize them.
2. To the right of each item list one unselfish thing you can do for someone else that might help you achieve your goal.
3. Pray about it daily.
4. Meditate on the following verse of Scripture and visualize in your mind what it would be like to have the object(s) of your desire.

*“Psalm 37:3-4: “Trust in the LORD and do good. Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will give you the desires of your heart.”*