

## **“Giving And Receiving”**

### **“Help!”**

Last week we talked about a few aspects of giving, and this week I'd like to discuss being on the receiving end of someone else's giving. I just read a statistic that said nearly 75% of people in general don't like to ask for help! I can attest to this from personal experience over many years of helping others. An example of this is my next door neighbor/friend Kathy whom I have helped with numerous projects; she always (like most people) prefaces her request with “I really hate to bother you...but.”

I tell her, as I have told dozens of others, “please bother me - I like to tinker!” My good friend George out in Payson, AZ and I were fellow Deacons at our church, and were always busy helping people with various needs. Someone asked us one day why we did so much for others, and after thinking for a moment, George replied “When we see something that needs done, we just can't NOT do it!”

I have been involved in helping many others (by myself or as part of a group) who have family members who are either too far away to help, unaware their parents need help, too busy, and often are aware, but sadly don't care! I have a friend of a friend who's killing themselves caring for an aging spouse with multiple serious health issues, and they are too proud to let their children know about it. May I be blunt? That's STUPID!

Even at my age (80) I am often able to do more than I imagined I could, but... I have learned my limitations, and because I lack some of my former strength, stability and energy, I am quick to admit to myself I just can't do some things, and I am not bashful about asking for help! Luke 6:38 says: *“Give, and it will be given to you...For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”* I am being given the help I once gave!

I'm speaking to us older folks here - if you are having difficulties with day to day life, like caring for a spouse who is ill (or yourself), struggling with everyday chores like cooking and laundry, getting out to the grocery store or to see doctors, or unable to make needed home repairs, please ask for help! *“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*(James 4:6 NKJV) Humbleness and humility are not weaknesses, they demonstrate a strong faith in God's provision! Ask, and you will gladly receive help!

Now to those of you who have aging parents, here's a secret - Dad and Mom don't want you to know they are struggling - they will put up a brave front so they won't bother their busy children. My Italian friend Lance used to ask people how they were, and almost everyone said “fine.” His response was to look them in the eye and say “No! I want to know how you're REALLY doing!” There's no greater love than to lay down your life for others! Ask the hard questions of others, then pitch in and help them! Amen!