



Foundation Scripture: **Ephesians 5:1**

I. **James 1:27**

A. What is God looking for? Someone...

1. **Who is Willing and Obedient** (Willing to Know and Do)
2. **Who Loves** (By this shall all men know that you are My disciples...)
3. **Who has Faith (Luke 18:8)**
4. **Who is Selfless** (Carries His Cross)
5. **Who Gives With Purpose**

B. Visit the Fatherless

1. **To go and see them and relieve them** (visit and look after them).
2. This obviously speaks of orphans....and by the prophetic voice of God, also people who are adults that deal with the spirit of abandonment (So many people need the touch from heaven, and it can only come through you here on this earth!).

C. Visit the Widows

1. **I Timothy 5:3-4** (The Criteria – Widow INDEED)
 - Must have no children or family that can take care of them
 - Must be over 60 years of age
 - Encourage the younger widows to remarry so the enemy cannot take advantage of their idleness.
2. A Christian should look for opportunity to be a blessing, especially to those of the household of faith (**Galatians 6:10**).

D. Keep Himself Unspotted From the Word

1. We should act different, speak different, Be Different!
2. For As He Is, So Are We In This World!

II. Giving with Purpose

A. **II Corinthians 9:6-8**

1. **Luke 6:35-38**

- The principle that Jesus is teaching is simple: Learn to be a giver...whether it be with money, love, mercy, kindness, or forgiveness...
- For it is more blessed to give than it is to receive.

2. The tithe (holy unto the Lord)

- This is not an O.T. thing or N.T. thing – It is a “God” thing!
- Abel brought His best...the firstfruits (before the law was given)
- Abraham tithed to Melchizedek (**Genesis 14:18-20**) (**Hebrews 7:1-3**) – the tithe was so important to God that He sent Jesus in person to receive it!
- **Malachi 3:10** “Bring ye all the tithes...”

B. Chosen by God

1. **Acts 10:4** – Cornelius’ giving (generosity and compassion) brought Him to the table!

2. *"If you did something for the least of these, you have done it to me."*
- C. Giving a "Hand Up" Instead of a "Hand Out"
1. Jesus said, "The poor you will have with you always...."
 - Giving with purpose is giving to help someone up and see them through
 - What's the difference? Lending vs. Giving (***Deuteronomy 15:7-8***) / Yes, you should give to the poor and yes you should help people in need, but Are you really helping someone by just giving them money? (This next subject applies to people you know or have an acquaintance with among other Christians). The first thing someone needs when they are in serious need is food, clothing, and shelter. The next thing they need is a job so they can sustain their own living for their family. Everyone is expected to work...Paul wrote, "If a person does not work, he will not eat." So a "Hand Up" is providing financial assistance in the form of an interest free loan so they have the things they need to become a self-sustaining member of society. If you just "Give" to someone, they will have a sense of entitlement and expect to receive it without putting effort to change their current situation.
- D. Giving with a generous eye – ***Matthew 6:19-24***
1. Vs 22-23 seems at first look to be something Jesus mentions that doesn't belong in the same context...but Jesus knew exactly what He was saying!
 - ***Proverbs 22:9*** *"He that has a bountiful eye is blessed..."*
 - What was Jesus saying? "If your eye is generous...if you are looking for an opportunity instead of being stingy or reluctant, money will follow you instead of controlling you!"
 2. Be A Giver with Purpose...Be A Follower...Be A Christian!