

RECEIVING KINDNESS

by Roger Cram

***“For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.”
(2 Corinthians 8:12.)***

This verse emphasizes that the key factor in receiving a gift is the givers sincere and willing heart, not the value of the gift itself. The verse also highlights the importance of a willing spirit when receiving a gift, indicating that gratitude and appreciation are the key aspects of accepting something willingly.

I carry in the trunk of my car a two-gallon can of gasoline in case I find people stranded by the side of the road out of gas. While driving on the Ohio Turnpike, I passed a middle-aged man and woman broken down in a white Mercedes. I stopped and discovered they were out of gas. I told them I carry

gasoline with me, and I would be happy to give them a gallon so they could get to the nearest gas station. They were extremely grateful, and the wife insisted on giving me money. She almost threw a \$20 bill in my face and tried to stuff it in my pocket. I told her if she deprives me of the joy of giving, perhaps I should deprive her of the gasoline. Giving to others, one of the most important things in the world, is impossible without a gracious receiver. She understood and sheepishly acquiesced.

She realized that receiving a gift graciously is just as important as giving the gift unconditionally. In fact, it is the gracious receiver that makes the entire event possible

DEAR LORD, AS I GO THROUGHOUT OUR WORLD OFFERING YOUR LOVE TO OTHERS, LET ME BE MINDFUL THAT OTHERS ARE DOING THE SAME. IN ORDER FOR ME TO HELP THEM SUCCEED, I MUST ALSO BE A GRATEFUL RECEIVER. AMEN