



## GIVING IS GOOD

*Pastor Bonita Sams*

In the movie Wallstreet, Michael Douglas' character Gordon Gekko proclaims that greed is good. He actually says, *“The point is ladies and gentlemen that greed for lack of a better word, is good.”* In his declaration, he basically shares that “greed” drives the world and motivates. Greed is an intense and selfish desire for something usually linked to power. But, there is a huge problem with greed and that is...it is a “selfish” desire to have. In Matthew 26:52, Jesus mentions living by the sword is to die by the sword. I believe that if you selfishly live for greed, it is greed that will eventually lead to your death (potentially naturally and spiritually). In walking with Christ, the driving factor can never be about self. It can not be about what you want, but it is all about what he wants. It can't be about your plan but rather about his plan. It's so easy to believe that we are not selfish because we go to church, we pray, we give our tithes, time and talents. So, God should be on board with us...right? Beep Beep...wrong answer, you are the weakest link! We need to be on board with him. The goal should not be to bring him where we are, but to go higher where he resides. Because we give monetary things does not entitle us to place selfish demands on God to deliver the things we desire for ourselves. Come on...we really do get it confused and our actions reflect it. We demand things from God because of what we think we have done for him. So, is it a payback system between you and God? Really? He did do that ... *“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son...”* thing. Hmm...let me know how that works out for ya!

So, here's what I'm pitching this go round. I say that giving from a deeper place is good. We often think of giving in the financial sense. However, as Christ mentioned in Matthew 23:23, we can give but if we forget about the more “weightier matters” such as “judgment, mercy, and faith”, what's the point? Don't get me wrong, I gladly give to God as I believe it to be my reasonable service for all that He has done for me and my family. However, there is something that God looks at even closer in our giving. He looks at the place from which the giving is derived. He sees and knows the motivation for our giving. Believe me when I say giving can come from a very self-motivated place. There is giving to be seen; giving to boast; giving to be recognized; giving to get people's buy in for your messiness; giving to show you are always right; giving to be validated; and about 1,000 other places that break God's heart.

What happened to giving because it pleases God? The motivation should not be greed but God, plain and simple. God always places us in a position to do something simple but impactful. Giving might include a hug or sharing a word of kindness to a friend in a painful place. Giving doesn't have to be all pomp and circumstances, horns blowing and angels descending from the heavens. It can come from the smallest of places but have the largest impact. It can be so unexpected and spontaneous; yet has the power to change someone's life course.

Everyday I walk to work and there is a homeless gentlemen that smiles at all the people going by and wishes each of us a great day. Every morning that small humble act of kindness reminds me that giving from a place of sincerity is powerful. He never asks for anything from us...just speaks that we have a great day! Every morning my eyes fill up with tears when I see him. As I walk toward him, I say Bonita don't sap up and cry...aw, you big baby here it comes, get out the tissue! That sincere act has changed my view of giving forever!

My new motto is, “I Give to Live”. Extending ourselves in the smallest way brings about a regeneration of our livelihood. There is an excitement of joy that stirs within when you sincerely give. It's as if you can hear the voice of God saying to you “Well, done my good and faithful servant.” At the end of this entire journey, those are the words I think we all want to hear.



## NEW BIRTH KINGDOM MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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*PASTOR SAMUEL SAMS, SENIOR PASTOR*

**SUNDAY WORSHIP:** 9:00 A.M. LIFE APPLICATION – 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP AND THE WORD  
(INCLUDES ALPHA ANGELS CHILDREN'S CHURCH)

**TUESDAY QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE BIBLE STUDY:** 7:30 P.M.

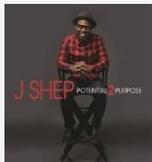


CRYSTAL AIKIN  
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### ALL I NEED

BY CRYSTAL AIKIN

Soulful and powerful! That's what Crystal brings to the table of worship. She takes us back to a time of true worship. We know her as a winner from the first season of Kirk Franklin's Sunday's Best. She is quoted as saying, "I believe there's something on my voice that causes deliverance and healing". This CD definitely delivers a sound that can't help but stir the atmosphere for God to move in a mighty way.



### POTENTIAL2PURPOSE

BY J. SHEP

J. Shep is singer, songwriter, producer, youth advocate and motivational speaker. This CD showcases his many talents and is packed with songs; 17 tracks to be exact. There is the toe tapper "Feel Good" and the remake of the classic "How Great Thou Art". J. has a great mix of music that certainly appeal to every demographic. The soloist are anointed. They include Stacie Shepherd and Chicago favorite, Kevin Gray. This one is a can't miss. This CD inspires, encourages and motivates.

## IN THE KNOW

### WHEN GOD MAKES YOU WAIT

BY ADAM HOUGE



Waiting on God can be challenging and sometimes it seems so cruel. He doesn't move when we think that he should. Adam Houge puts it all in perspective in his new book. He immediately draws our attention in the first chapter with "Waiting has Purpose". Nothing else really to be said here. God always has a purpose and always has a plan...we have to be patient to wait for the manifestation. Having some trouble waiting? Then be sure to check this great read out.

### AROUND TOWN

**Charisma Inspiredance Ministry**

**Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs**

Saturday, June 27, 2015 (1:30 & 7:30 p.m.)

410 Lakewood Blvd., Park Forest, Illinois

Tickets Call (312) 401-6347

**Selah Worship Conference**

**July 15-17, 2015**

Christian Life Center

6363 W. 183<sup>rd</sup> Street Tinley Park, Illinois

Purchase tickets online:

[www.selahworshipconference.com](http://www.selahworshipconference.com)

### Upcoming Church Events

**Women of Wisdom Annual Spring Fellowship & Luncheon**

**Saturday, May 23, 2015 Beginning at 1:00 p.m.**

***"Committed to the Cause"***

**Guest Speakers:**

**First Lady Karen Washington, Pastor Veronica Evans and Pastor Tamara Marbury**

**Event FREE to all attendees - Held at New Birth Kingdom Ministries International**

**7044 South Princeton Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60621**

**RSVP Your Attendance at [newbirthkingdom@aol.com](mailto:newbirthkingdom@aol.com) or by phone 866-883-9838**