



Pay It Forward

"No act of kindness no matter how small is ever wasted."

- Aesop

Pay It Forward encourages us to do a good deed for people and, when thanked, ask them to repay the good to someone else.

LEADER:

The origin of good gifts has an ancient and important source: God created it, and He has practiced it since "the beginning."

We see this in James 1:16-17: "Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

ALL:

Everything good we experience in life is a gift from God, where good starts. He doesn't owe anyone anything; He has no debts to repay. His blessings are all significant and serve the transcendent purpose of human life.

Whatever good we can do is only possible because God gave us the means, starting with the breath of life: "In Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 7:12).

SONG: Act Justly (By: Bernadette Farrell) YouTube

CHORUS:

Act justly, love tenderly,
Walk, walk humbly with your God

People lift up your voices,
By your actions make choices.
In this time, the only time we have,
Show us the way to live. **(CHORUS)**

On the planet of plenty,
Lives and futures lie empty,
In this world, the only world we have,
Show us the way to live. **(CHORUS)**

LEADER:

The Bible enjoins upon Christians the necessity of passing on to others the good
God has done for you.

ALL: (Matthew 7:12)

“Therefore, whatever you want me to do to you, do also to them, for this is the
law and the prophets.”

LEADER:

We should try to do good deeds wherever we can. No one should be excluded.

ALL: (Galatians 6:9-10)

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we will reap if we
do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all,
especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

READER 1

The bible encourages us to reflect on the good God has done in our lives and to pass on LOVE:

“We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, ‘I love God’ and hates their brother or sister, they are a liar; for the person who does not love their brother or sister whom they see, how can they love God whom they have not seen? And this we have from Him; that they who love God must love their brother and sister also.” (1 John 4:19-21)

When we realize how much God loves us, and how many good things He is doing for us now; what He has done in our past and will do for us in the future, we love Him in return. And when that happens, we have the responsibility to love our fellow human beings. That divine, selfless, altruistic love that we receive from our Father in heaven must be paid forward to His other children.

PAUSE and REFLECT:

READER 2

The bible encourages us to reflect on the good God has done in our lives and to pass on RECONCILIATION:

“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not putting their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

Through Christ’s sacrifice, God reconciled us to Him. That is, He healed and restored our relationship, which had been broken by our sins. Now we are told we have a ministry of reconciliation, to do what we can to help people be reconciled with God and with each other. Working collectively to proclaim the way to reconciliation with God is part of the mission of the church.

PAUSE and REFLECT:

READER 3:

The bible encourages us to reflect on the good God has done in our lives and to pass on HOPE:

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” (1 Peter 3:15)

Our world is growing increasingly dark and forbidding. Fears of wars, terrorism, crime, disease, religious persecution, cultural discrimination, economic crisis..... and other ills are causing people to doubt there can be a bright future. We need to be prepared to share hope with others who ask about our faith and confidence. As Hebrews tells us; “Christians live in hope of God’s promises..... that the world will finally see the ultimate happy ending. And those who walk with God can be assured of His care and protection even in the most difficult circumstances.” (Hebrews 13: 5-6)

PAUSE and REFLECT

READER 4

The bible encourages us to reflect on the good God has done in our lives and to pass on the GOSPEL of the KINGDOM:

“As you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.” (Matthew 10:7-8)

Jesus told the disciples that they had been taught the truth of God without charge, and they were to pay it forward to others without cost. Passing on good deeds may seem like a modern idea, but it is as old as the work God is doing with humanity. He has given us life and everything else we need to achieve our potential.

Let us take the good things God has done for us and do our part to pay them forward.

PAUSE and REFLECT

DISCUSS and SHARE: What does “paying it forward” mean to you?

What are some other “biblical truths” you can pay forward in your everyday life?

What are some practical examples of “paying it forward?”

SONG: Do Something (By: Matthew West) YouTube

I woke up this morning
Saw a world full of trouble now, thought
How'd we ever get so far down, and
How's it ever gonna turn around
So I turned my eyes to Heaven
I thought, “God, why don't You do something?”
Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of
People living in poverty
Children sold into slavery
The thought disgusted me
So, I shook my fist at Heaven
Said, “God, why don't you do something?”
He said, “I did, yeah, I created you”

CHORUS:

If not us, then who
If not me and you
Right now, it's time for us to do something, yeah
If not now, then when
Will we see an end
To all this pain
Oh, it's not enough to do nothing
It's time for us to do something

I'm so tired of talking about
How we are God's hands and feet
But it's easier to say than to be
Live like angels of apathy who tell ourselves
It's alright, "someone else will do something"
Well I don't know about you
But I'm sick and tired of life with no desire
I don't want a flame, I want a fire and
I wanna be the one who stands up and says
'I'm gonna do something" (CHORUS)

We are the salt of the earth
We are a city on a hill
We're never gonna change the world
By standing still
No, we won't stand still
No, we won't stand still
No, we won't stand still
No (CHORUS)

CLOSING

LEADER: Whatever good we are capable of doing is only possible because God gave us the means, starting with the breath of life.

ALL: "In Him we live and move and have our being." Amen. (Acts 17:28)

