

“PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER, AND RUNNING OVER”

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In Luke 6:38 Jesus said, “*Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.*” Jesus is clearly stating that we should give with the knowledge that the same measure will be given back to us. This is not encouraging selfishness, but just as when He taught men to “*lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven*” (Matthew 6:19-21), Jesus is teaching us what is in our spiritual best interest. This return measure of blessings can be ours both now and in eternity.

It is impressive how Jesus describes the fullness of these blessings that we will receive. The language is vivid and revealing. It is a *good measure*, excellent in quality and quantity, and further described as *pressed down, shaken together, and running over*. Have you ever bought a bag of potato chips at the grocery store, opened them up, and wondered where all the chips went? The chips fill about half the bag (I am aware that the bag says it is filled by weight and some “settling may occur during shipment” – but if the chips settled anymore, the bag would be empty!) The chips are shaken down and seem so few. On the other hand, when you fill a lawn bag with leaves, don’t you usually press the leaves down and shake the bag to free up space to put in more leaves? We want every space to be filled. If we are giving and helping others, our return of blessings will be like that bag of leaves – stuffed full to running over. If we are stingy and selfish, our return will be like bags that look nearly empty.

God wants to fill us to overflowing with blessings, but He waits to see what kind of measure we use in our giving. The greater the giving, the larger the return. Let us be cheerful givers!