

Doctrine of Alms

1. The giving of alms refers to the giving of help or charity to those less fortunate in life. Charity is simply benevolent good will expressed to someone. Jesus encouraged helping others but not to be seen of men.
 - *Matthew 6:1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.*
2. The giving of alms is to be done in secret if at all possible.
 - *Matthew 6:2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.*
3. Those who practice secret giving will be openly rewarded.
 - *Matthew 6:4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.*
4. It is not how much alms that one gives which is important but that they are given. Even the poorest of the poor can help someone else.
 - *Luke 11:41 But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you.*
5. One way to have something to give to others and the work of the ministry is to sell personal possessions.
 - *Luke 12:33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.*
6. There is no shame associated with the asking of legitimate alms. When help is requested it should not be denied in anger or with a spirit of reproach.
 - *Acts 3:2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;*
7. Sometimes asking for alms can lead to an opportunity to present the gospel and to see the power of God displayed.

- *Acts 3:3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. 4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. 5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. 6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. 7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and anklebones received strength.*

8. God can be glorified through the poor.

- *Acts 3:10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.*

9. Often devout Christians are characterized by giving much alms, and God remembers.

- *Acts 10:4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.*
- *Acts 10:31 And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.*