

Giving Apples Away

Hyrum W. Smith is an author, speaker, corporate trainer and businessman. He is one of the original creators of the popular Franklin Day Planner.

When he was 8 years old, he said, living in the Hawaiian Islands, “it appeared that Christmas was going to be pretty lean for our household. My parents gathered us together to explain to my siblings and me (there were seven of us) that there was not a great deal of money for Christmas. Each of us would have to select one gift that we really wanted, and that one gift would likely be the only one we would receive.”

Smith loved apples, so he asked for a bushel of them.

His parents were astonished, but on Christmas morning, they managed to present him “the most wonderful bushel of apples I have ever seen.”



It was only years later that Smith realized that since apples don't grow in Hawaii, they had to be shipped in. He had asked for a very expensive present.

“As soon as the rest of my family had opened their presents,” he recalls, “I grabbed my bushel of apples and went out into the neighborhood to find all my friends. Within a few hours, I had given all my apples away. I remember how wonderful it was to share my apples with all my friends. The fact that they were gone before sundown was not a problem for me.”

Out of that experience, Smith later came to an understanding of what he calls “the abundance mentality.”

It was a lesson well learned, and his story is instructive for all of us. The more cheerfully we give to others, the more abundantly we receive.

Understand this: Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself.

Happy are those who long to be just and good, for they shall be completely satisfied (Matthew 5:6 TLB).

– Beecher Hunter