

# Proverbs 3:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

## Analysis

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Generosity is presented as a matter of justice, not optional benevolence. The phrase 'when it is in the power of thine hand' indicates moral obligation wherever ability exists. This reflects the image of God in humanity—we represent Him to those in need. Hoarding resources denies our stewardship role and violates the second great commandment.

## Historical Context

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Israel's law prescribed specific provisions for the poor (gleaning rights, Sabbath year releases, Jubilee). Personal generosity complemented systemic justice, both grounded in remembering God's redemptive grace to Israel.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What resources has God entrusted to you that could benefit others in need?
2. How can you move from viewing generosity as optional to seeing it as obligation?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּהִיא וְתַּמְנַע אֶל  
H408 **Withhold** H4513 not good H2896 from them to whom it is due H1167 H1961

לֹא לְעָשֹׂת יְדִיךְ  
H410 when it is in the power H3027 of thine hand H6213 to do

## Additional Cross-References

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**Galatians 6:10** (Good): As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

**Romans 13:7** (Parallel theme): Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

**James 5:4** (Parallel theme): Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

**Genesis 31:29** (Good): It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt: but the God of your father spake unto me yesternight, saying, Take thou heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad.