



God is not a Mafia hit man, capisce?

by Vera Giles
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Giving with Gratitude

God is not a Mafia hit man. He doesn't come to us with an offer we can't refuse. He doesn't tell us that now that he's been so good to us for so long, it's time we did a little something for him, capisce?

God is also not a passive-aggressive grandmother. "You know that nice little church over there could really use some lights in the winter. Those poor people over there might like some food. But whatever you want to do is fine with me. I'll just be sitting over here whenever you feel like talking. Don't mind me."

God is nothing less than our glorious Creator. And he did something interesting when he created us. He built us so that the act of true giving opens our hearts. Not giving out of fear, to the hit man, or obligation and guilt, to

the grandmother. Giving out of gratitude to something we care about opens our hearts so we care more, we are happier, and we feel more free.

When I give my money and my time to St. Margaret's, I move past fear and guilt to love. Sure, sometimes I find myself stuck back in grandma mode, feeling resentful, or in hit man mode, feeling like I'm a bad Christian if I don't do more. So I pray to open my heart back up, and the amazing thing is that giving opens my heart even more. What a gift from God.

This week, join me in prayer. Walk past the hit man. Say goodbye to manipulative grandma. Go straight to your Creator and give in gratitude. You will get so much in return.



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