

## Give and Receive

Give yourselves to Me,  
and I will make you a new people.

Give yourselves to Me,  
and I will give you a new heart.

Give yourselves to Me,  
and I will fill you with every good thing.

Why do you keep yourselves from Me?

Why do you withhold from Me that which I desire most - - and deserve most?

Why do you withhold from Me the very thing through which I would minister life to you?

You cheat yourselves.

You hurt yourselves.

You deprive yourselves.

When you quench my Spirit,  
when you restrain His working in you,  
you take away from Me the privilege of ministering life to you;  
because as you minister to Me in worship,  
I would minister to you - - LIFE!

Born in 1940, Ken Stoltzfus has worked as a pilot, ordained Christian minister, businessman, missionary to Africa and writer. This is #7 in the section, "Poetry and Piety", at [www.John2031.com](http://www.John2031.com), and is one of many short writings that can be found there.

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