

God Loves a Cheerful Giver

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

October 9, 2016

When we say God loves a cheerful giver we are talking specifically monetarily, but also we are speaking of time, talents, service and self.

God desires for us grace giving, that is giving because of the grace and love we have received from Him.

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. **2 Corinthians 9:7**

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. **Matthew 23:23**

In giving the way God intends, here is what happens:

1) Your giving will provoke others. (vs. 1-5)

When we see what God is doing in and through the lives of others, we ought to strive to serve Him better ourselves. There is a fine line between fleshly imitation and spiritual emulation, and we must be careful in this regard. But a zealous Christian can be the means of stirring up a church and motivating people to pray, work, witness, and give. Our greatest encouragement for giving is that it pleases the Lord, though there is nothing wrong with practicing the kind of giving that provokes others to give. ~ Warren Wiersbe

2) Your giving will bless you. (vs. 6-11)

Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you. **Luke 6:38**

Giving is not something we do, but something we are!

We reap in measure what we sow. (vs. 6)

¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: ¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ^[b] who strengthens me. ¹⁴ Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. ¹⁵ Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. ¹⁸ Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the

things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. ¹⁹ *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* ²⁰ *Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.* **Philippians 4:10-20**

We reap as we sow with the right motives. (vs. 7)

Our giving must come from the heart, and the motive in the heart must please God. We must not be "sad givers" who give grudgingly, or "mad givers" who give because we have to ("of necessity"); but we should be "glad givers" who cheerfully share what we have because we have experienced the grace of God. "He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed" ([Prov. 22:9](#)). If we cannot give joyfully (the Greek word gives us our English word *hilarious*), then we must open our hearts to the Lord and ask Him to grant us His grace. Certainly God can bless a gift that is given out of a sense of duty, but God cannot bless the giver unless his heart is right. Grace giving means that God blesses the giver as well as the gift, and that the giver is a blessing to others. ~ Warren Wiersbe

As we sow, we are enriched and we enrich others. (vs. 11)

We are channels which God uses to meet needs.

3) Your giving will meet needs. (vs.12)

When a Christian starts to think of excuses for not giving, he automatically moves out of the sphere of grace giving. *Grace never looks for a reason; it only looks for an opportunity.* If there is a need to be met, the grace-controlled Christian will do what he can to meet it. ~ Warren Wiersbe

4) Your giving will glorify God. (vs. 13)

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:16**

5) Your giving will unite God's people. (vs. 14-15)

Gentile Church helping Jewish believers: an expression of love and of prayer.

And by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.

2 Corinthians 9:14

Prayer Focus:

- I will give as God commands and instructs
- I will give obediently
- I will give sacrificially