

God Loves a Cheerful Giver¹

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

June 16, 2022

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 tithe of mint and anise and cummin, 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***

When 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**

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.

Hebrews 10:24

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 (v. 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 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 (v. 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" (Proverbs. 22:9). If we cannot give

¹ Portion of Outline taken from Warren Wiersbe

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. (v. 11)

We are channels which God uses to meet needs.

3) Your giving will meet needs. (v. 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**

It might be profitable here to notice Paul's use of the concept of *abundance* as he wrote this letter. He opened the letter with abundant suffering that was matched by abundant comfort (2 Cor. 1:5). He also mentioned abundant grace (2 Cor. 4:15) and abundant joy and liberality (2 Cor. 8:2). Because of God's abundant grace, we can abound always in every good work (2 Cor. 9:8). The apostle saw the Christian life as one of abundance, for Jesus Christ can make us adequate for every situation.

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

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

"Let your light so shine before men," said our Lord, "that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). This is one of the beauties of church giving: no individual gets the glory that belongs only to God.

For what would the grateful Jewish believers give thanks? Of course, they would praise God for the generosity of the Gentile churches in meeting their physical and material needs. But they would also praise God for the spiritual submission of the Gentiles, their obedience to the Spirit of God who gave them the desire to give. They would say, "Those Gentiles not only preach the Gospel, but they also practice it!"

The little phrase *and unto all men* at the end of this verse (2 Cor. 9:13) is significant. The Jewish believers would give thanks that *others* were also being assisted by the Gentile churches. Each little congregation that received aid would be thankful for that aid and for the aid being given to others. Instead of saying, "Why didn't we get more?" they would be praising God that others in need were also being helped. That is the way grace giving works.

It might be good for our churches to take inventory to see if anybody is giving thanks to God for our obedience and generosity. No amount of evangelistic zeal or worship activity can compensate for lost opportunities in serving others and meeting their practical needs. It is not a matter of choosing one and ignoring the other. There must be a balance of sharing the Gospel and meeting practical needs, if our light is to shine brightly and steadily. It has well been said that it is difficult to preach the Gospel to a hungry man (see James 2:15-16).

I recall reading about a wealthy Christian who daily, at family devotions, prayed for the needs of the missionaries that his church supported. One morning, after he had concluded family prayers, his little boy said, "Dad, if I had your checkbook, I could answer your prayers!" A discerning lad, indeed!

~ **Warren Wiersbe**

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

Gentile Church helping Jewish believers: an expression of love and of prayer (2 Cor 9:14)

Prayer Focus:

- I will give as God commands and instructs.
- I will give obediently.
- I will give sacrificially.
- I will know that everything I have comes from the Lord.