

“Reflections About Giving”

In the Bible, the word “believe” is used 272 times. The word “pray” is used 371 times. The word “love” is used even more, 714 times, but the word “give” is used 2,161 times. Why do you think that that’s so?

Now let’s examine three truths about giving from Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth ...

1. Your heart matters when you give. (Willingly, Joyfully & Intentionally)

“For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has,
not according to what he does not have.
2 Cor. 8:12 (NIV)

Paul is saying the amount isn’t important. What’s important is your attitude when you give. Reward for giving is based on the willingness, not on the wealth. It’s based on how you give, not how much you give. God doesn’t look at the amount you give. He looks at the amount left over.

He looks at how much – He is evaluating your generosity not in light of how much you give, but how much you gave in light of how much He gave to you. That’s the comparison. So give willingly.

“Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” ⁸ And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”
2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NLT)

The heart matters. Hilarious giving! Give and give and give and give, until you love it.

If you ever feel pressured to give, don’t do it. Because you don’t get any credit for it anyway. If you are giving reluctantly and you are giving under pressure, don’t give. He wants you to give willingly.

“But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity.”
Isaiah 32:8 (NLT)

2. You cannot out-give God.

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written: “He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”
2 Corinthians 9:8-10 (NIV)

What seeds do you have to give? You have time, gifts, talents, abilities, your heart, words, your things, financial resources. He’s given you seeds.

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When you sow generously, you will reap generously and He will increase the store of your seed. You will have more seed to give and He will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness – He is going to make you more like Himself. He’s going to enlarge the harvest of your righteousness and you’re going to become more like God who is a giver! When you give beyond the tithe it’s like compounding interest – it’s compounding joy, peace, fulfillment and influence!

3. People will thank God because of what you give.

“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion,
and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

2 Corinthians 9:11 (NIV)

People around the world will thank GOD because of your generosity. He gets glory! Every time a person’s life is changed, it’s because someone has sowed seeds into good soil and there are generations that will be different because someone has been faithful.

Parenthetically (outside of letter to Corinth) ... God invites you to give thankfully.

“How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?”

Psalm 116:12 (NIV)

You will never be able to repay God for all He’s done for you. If He never did one more thing for you, He’s already done so much for you today that you ought to give just out of gratitude the rest of your life.

“Give away your life; you’ll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.”

Luke 6:38 (MsgB)

“Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”

1 Chron. 29:14 (NIV)

Let’s Pray!

Resources: “Multiply” series by Robert Morris, Gateway Church, TX; Lifechurch.tv; “Be Rich” series by Andy Stanley & “Strapped” series by Craig Groeschel