

The Principles of Giving

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

"Remember this: The persons who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously." - 2 Cor. 9:6

Main Point: How we give is an important part of our faith and trust in the Lord.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Describe a time when somebody gave you something valuable. How did it make you feel?

When is the last time you gave to somebody else? Did you miss that which you gave?

It goes against our human nature to be generous and give away what we have. After all, we worked hard for the things we own, right? But when we step back and see our possessions through a Biblical worldview, we quickly realize what we have is not our own. We are merely stewards of what the Lord has provided us and blessed us with. So if we decide to agree with Jesus when he said "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35) how do we follow his command to give? What does it look like? Paul outlines some key principles for giving with the Corinthian church which we can apply today.

There are a couple principles Paul points out to help us be more generous:

1) **YOU'LL REAP WHAT YOU SOW. Read verse 6 from our passage.**

Why is it so hard to let go and sow what we have? What words in these verses describe the attitude about giving that God will honor?

How would you define the word "steward?" Knowing that the "seeds" you are steward over belong to God, how might that affect how much you sow?

Pastor Erik said "what happens in the future will be determined by what you sow into your life today. If you want to change your future, then you need to change what you are sowing today." What do you need to start sowing today that you need more of yourself? What steps can you take this week to change that?

How does the principle of the Sabbath (work 6 days, rest on the 7th) coincide with giving a tithe (living off of 90% and giving away the other 10%)?. How have you seen this at work in your life?

2) **YOU'LL REAP AS YOU SOW WITH RIGHT MOTIVES. Read verse 7 from our passage.**

Why does motive matter so much in our relationships? What impure motives might someone have for giving in church or otherwise?

How does your attitude affect your giving? What is the result of giving reluctantly or because someone compelled you to do so?

Read **Malachi 3:10**. What type of motive does God allow, and even recommend, when it comes to giving? How have you put Him to the test in the past, and how has He responded?

3) **YOU'LL REAP WHILE YOU SOW** (v.8-11)

What is the relationship between accumulating wealth and giving generously in ministry to others?

What is God's purpose in providing the giver everything he or she needs?

Paul reminded the Corinthians that God is capable of meeting their needs as they followed His leadership in meeting the needs of others. Those receiving gifts from other believers recognize His hand at work and thank Him. How is worship—thanksgiving and glory to God—produced by your giving?

Apply It:

Giving is a sign of obedience to God in your life. If you aren't giving already, how can you adjust your expenses to start giving this month? What worries you about giving up a percentage of your income?

Pray:

Pray that God will open the hearts of His people at VillageChurch to bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. Pray that He would bless it and multiply all the giving through our church so the lost will be saved and the blind will see His light through us!

Coming up at VillageChurch:

Discovery Class: October 22nd. Email info@blythewoodvillage.com to RSVP.

Lake Scare-O-Lina: October 22nd. Sign up in the lobby to help!

Baptism: November 5th in Worship. Email info@blythewoodvillage.com to get more info.