

Seven Life Changing Disciplines
#7 Give Generously – 2 Corinthians 9:5-15

In scripture there are about 500 verses on prayer, 500 verses about faith and 2,350 verses dealing with money and possessions written for our benefit.

According to George Barna's research giving among Christians in America averages about 3% of their annual income.

Howard Dayton from Crown Financial Ministries says, "While Christians frequently declare a faith that sets them apart from the culture, they are often indistinguishable from it in the ways they handle their resources."

Biblical Financial Principles Have Divine _____

1. The Principle of Proportion (5-6)

Paul Is Not Teaching What to Give but How to Give

When the heart is right the amount will be correct.

• **You reap in proportion to what you _____**

God's natural laws illustrate His spiritual laws. This is the first law of the harvest. Sparse sowing produces a sparse harvest. Paul is not revealing new truth but repeating Old Testament truth.

Proverbs 11:24-25, "There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself."

Paul Is Teaching About _____ With God

• **Bountiful sowing produces a bountiful _____**

The word "bountiful" is a form of our English word "eulogy". It carries the idea of blessing. Believers who lack generosity become spiritually impoverished. It involves the principle of firstfruits.

Proverbs 3:9-10, "Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine."

God not only blesses what we give, He adds His blessing to what remains. Another law of the harvest is that we reap in kind with what we sow. God blessings involve both material and spiritual blessings. Proverbs 10:22, "The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it."

Generous Giving _____ God's Blessing

2. The Principle of Purpose (7)

The Bible Teaches Planned Giving

There is a time for spontaneous giving to meet immediate needs. Matthew 6:3, "But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing."

The majority of our giving will involve purpose and planning.

• **Giving is always commanded as a voluntary personal _____**

It is personal "each one give as he purposes in his heart". The word "purposes" literally means to choose beforehand. This is not impulsive giving but a predetermined decision. "Not grudgingly" deals with the inward attitude and it means not with grief. "Or of necessity" means because of outward pressure. This has always been God's approach to giving with His people.

Exodus 35:5, "Take from among you an offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord..."

If Giving Is Only With Regret _____

• **When my heart is in my giving so _____**

"God loves a cheerful giver."

This is one of the greatest motivations for giving. This is *agape* love, the highest form of love. God takes special delight in His generous Children. In the Old Testament this delight was known as "favor". God honors those who honor Him. Proverbs 12:2, "A good man obtains favor from the Lord." My generous giving touches the heart of my generous Father. We can give without loving but we cannot love without giving.

Proverbs 22:1, "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold."

Generous Giving Brings God's _____

3. The Principle of Abundance (8-12)

Based Upon the Power and Promises of God

• **God _____ my giving**

(8) “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things...”

My giving is a direct statement of my faith in the power of God and the promises of God. If I am not giving generously I either do not believe in the power of God or I doubt the promises of God.

Luke 6:38, “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.”

God does not bless my giving so I can become a greater consumer but a greater giver. He increases my seed store for greater sowing. Paul quotes from Psalm 112 in verse 9. (10) “...supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.”

There is no End of God’s Supply Because There is no End of _____

• **God _____ my giving**

God invests it with His power and multiplies it for His purposes. God uses my gift to meet the needs of people. Those people give God glory through praise and thanksgiving. They thank God for the giver as well (14) “by their prayer for you.” Our giving is used by God to meet practical needs.

Generous Giving Ministers to People and Brings _____ to God