

How to Give

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I. Introduction.

- A. The better one understands how to give the more he enjoys it and benefits from it.
- B. The Bible teaches that is more blessed to give than receive because it is the truth.
- C. There is an added blessing to giving that is not there when you are receiving it.
- D. Text: II Corinthians 8.
- E. Paul's motivation for asking the Corinthians to give is because of the needs of the church of Jerusalem, to be a witness to the Jews and to placate the burden of the Roman Empire.
- F. Paul recalls the Macedonians in order to present an example of giving to the Corinthians.
- G. There are several principles for giving.
- H. These principles will change your financial status if you practice them.

II. We are to give out of our need not out of our surplus.

- A. They were scraping at the bottom of the barrel when the Apostle Paul asked them to give to the Jerusalem church.
- B. If you only give out of surplus, you will never learn how to give God's way. As a result, you will never condition yourself to receive God's blessing.
- C. We are to give as a discipline.
- D. We are to help people who have a genuine need.
- E. We are to give our way out of debt.
- F. We cannot out-give God.
- G. A person can live without the best of things.

III. We are to give out of liberality and not out of selfishness.

- A. Liberality means singleness of mind that promotes generosity.

- B. The Corinthians were excited about giving.
- C. Generosity is a quality of the hearts – it is an attitude we have.
- D. God is generous, so we should be also.
- E. Affliction plus poverty plus the grace of God equals abounding joy and overflowing abundance.

IV. We are to give out of faith and not our ability.

- A. If we give out of what we are able, we set a limitation upon God.
- B. If one gives out of faith, he has access to God's resources.
- C. Every area of our life is God's opportunity to build our trust in His. (Mark 12:41)
- D. God has never failed to keep a promise in your life.

V. We are to give out of compassion and not coercion.

- A. The Corinthians took the initiative. They begged for the opportunity.
- B. People give because they feel pressured to give and feel frustrated. They usually do not give as much as they could. They usually compare their giving with someone else. Usually there is guilt involved. Usually they do not give as much as they would if it were out of compassion.
- C. We have a responsibility to the church at Jerusalem just as much as the Corinthians did. The gospel came from Jerusalem.

VI. We give ourselves and not just our possessions.

- A. Since we have given ourselves to Him, then everything really belongs to Him anyway. It all belongs to Him.
- B. If we keep struggling to give something, than we have not really dealt with it.
- C. Sometimes we must just stop arguing with God.
- D. We must stop playing God and let Him do it.

VII. Conclusion.

- A. Make a commitment to God following these principles of giving.

B. Something will happen to you as a result.

C. All you have to do is be wise to do it.

Application questions:

1. Which principle of giving struck you the most? What stood out to you about it?

2. Why is it important to give out of compassion and not coercion?

3. What can you do this week to become a better giver in a both practical and provable way?
