

Giving and Living

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 16:1-9.

B. This deals with the practicalities of ministry.

II. How to give.

A. Giving is one way to abound in the work of the Lord.

B. Two reasons why the church in Jerusalem was having trouble.

1. Circumstances: a series of famines.

2. Consequences: their failure to obey what the Lord had said.

a. A persecution drove the church out.

b. The church lost its wealth as a result.

C. The Gentile churches were exhorted to meet the need.

D. Principles of giving.

1. Giving is a universal practice.

2. Giving is to be done weekly.

3. Give freely out of necessity of our Christian relationship.

4. Put something aside and store it up.

5. Give according to the way God has given to you—if God has richly blessed you, increase the percentage of your giving.

a. Tithing is not taught in the New Testament.

b. Proportionate giving is taught.

6. Give out of willingness and not extortion.

7. Giving should be responsibly carried out.

III. How to plan and schedule.

A. Immediate goals should be short-range goals.

- B. Commitments should be flexible because the Lord can change plans.
- C. Expect provision from God along the way.
- D. Take into account natural events.
- E. There has to be a wide door for ministry but the presence of adversaries.
 - 1. A door without adversaries could make one prideful.
 - 2. A door with too many adversaries could prevent ministry.

Application questions:

1. Which principle of giving stands out to you? Explain.

2. Which principle of planning do you find most difficult? Why?

3. How will you reassess your plans and schedules in light of the message?
