

Giving Joyfully

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Corinthians 8:1-9:15.
- B. Our motive is more important than the amount—God reads the heart.
- C. If there is a readiness to give it is according to what a man has and not what he has not.
- D. God gives certain excess so that those in need might receive.
- E. At times, we are the ones that need to receive.

II. Giving requires that the control of a certain amount of money be invested in several individuals and not just any one.

- A. Men who were tested and proven were given responsibility over the money.
- B. Paul was careful to arrange for the sharing of control to avoid any criticism.
- C. Be careful to give to any Christian organization headed by a single individual—even a Christian group run by a family can be suspect.
- D. Give only to those groups willing to publish an audit.

III. Giving must not come with pressure.

- A. Too many evangelists want people to wait until they come so that they can extract more funds through manipulation.
- B. Do not give to groups who habitually rely on emotional appeals.
- C. There is a place for emotional appeal, but not habitual appeals.

IV. The possibilities of giving.

- A. The closest analogy we have to giving is a farmer sowing his crops.
- B. Giving is a process that will return something back to you.

V. How to give.

- A. Giving must be voluntary because God loves a cheerful giver—giving must come from a desire and not a need for reputation.
- B. True giving must be expectant giving.

1. There is nothing wrong with recognizing that you will benefit from your giving because the boundaries of your living are narrowed if you do not.
2. If you give in order that you may have more to give, you are in the right mind.
3. If you give in order to receive more, you are in the wrong mind.
4. People pray for you when you give, and you become a beneficiary.
5. Giving glorifies God by the thanksgiving of many.
6. We are to give because we have been given.

VI. Freely give because freely you have received.

Application questions:

1. What are some warnings against giving that stand out to you? Why?

2. Why is it okay to give while keeping in mind that there is a great benefit to come from it?

3. To what are some areas of need that you can give? How can you approach this in light of the message?
