

# **Blessing without Measure**

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 8:1-9:15.

B. Subject: the matter of possessions.

C. Our giving is a barometer to our living.

D. We must act not by pressure but a sane sensible conviction arrived at by the Scripture that giving is an integral part of the Christian life. (I Corinthians 16)

## II. The characteristics of true Spirit-prompted giving.

A. All giving is not Christian giving—the motive is entirely a personal and private affair.

B. There are certain visible traits that distinguish Christian living.

1. The Corinthians gave despite their own pressing needs and poverty.

a. God loves a joyful giver.

b. Giving is to be a liberality.

c. The response was immediate. (I Corinthians 9:1-2)

2. There must be integrity in the response.

a. Pledging is not wrong.

b. We live on a pledge every day when we promise to pay a bill.

c. God is not more hard-hearted than our creditors.

d. One mark of the Spirit's presence is faithfulness.

3. There is equality and inclusiveness in giving that must be properly balanced.

a. In prosperity, we are to relieve the needs of others.

b. In prosperity, we are to receive the needs of others.

c. God will curse if we fail to give in prosperity.

d. God will curse us if we fail to receive when in need in our pride.

4. The supplier will be enriched in every way for great generosity.

- a. If you sow love in giving, God will pour love back into your life in abundance.
- b. If your life is lacking love—sow love and you will reap it.

**Application questions:**

1. Why is having one's own pressing needs not necessarily an excuse not to give?

---

---

2. Why is balance in giving and receiving important in maintaining humility?

---

---

3. What attitude do you have in your giving? How might you look at giving different in light of the message?

---

---