

If You Give Bountifully, You will Reap Bountifully

2 Corinthians 9:6: But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Ecclesiastes 11:1: Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

Galatians 6:9: And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Notice that the last part of 2 Corinthians 9:6 says, *...and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

Do you know how to tell if you're sowing bountifully? - It's when you're reaping bountifully!

Our reaping sheds light on our sowing. I think sometimes we assume that we are giving people, but until we are reaping bountifully, we aren't as giving as we need to be.

Our receiving is in direct relationship to our sowing. I've always watched people from the time I got born again, and I have been blessed by God to be associated with (*and to be friends with*) people who were always giving. I've watched them over the years, and I'm amazed at how the blessings of God have overtaken them. Some of them seem to have had virtually nothing, and yet they always found something to give to someone else.

I knew one such person in Bible school. He had 3 children and his wife was pregnant with their fourth child. They had no healthcare and no way of paying for the baby's delivery. When they arrived at Bible school, they didn't even have an automobile. They'd rented a moving truck to transport their few

belongings half way across the country, and when they returned it, that was the end of their transportation! They believed that God wanted them to go to Bible school, so they took off to follow Him.

Now think about this: three children, your wife's pregnant, and you have no transportation. Except for the little bit of clothes and furniture they had, they'd left everything to follow God. They found an apartment and the husband got a job at the apartment building doing maintenance. They didn't even have enough money for toothpaste.

I thought the man was well off financially, because every day when he came to school, he had an attitude like he had a million dollars in his pocket. He was so full of joy and victory! Sometimes, I even thought the reason he was so happy was because of all the money he had. I had no idea that he was financially far worse off than I was!

Every day, he'd start walking to school, and someone would stop and give him a ride. He never told the rest of his fellow students that he didn't have transportation; he didn't talk his needs. Before the end of the first year, someone gave him a car. He gave that car away, and someone gave him another car! He later gave that car away, and somebody gave him another car! Each car was better than the last one, and just a while back, I heard someone gave him a Lexus!

I've seen this guy give his clothes and even his furniture away, and I actually witnessed the blessings of God overtake him financially. The more he prospered, the more expensive the gifts were that he gave away. One time, he had a real nice watch and ring, and he heard some minister had talked mean and ugly about him, so he mailed the man his watch and ring.

In the second year of Bible school, I got to know him personally, and we became good friends. God took care of everything for him and his family, even when their baby was born. Over the next several years, I got to see this dear person sowing bountifully and reaping bountifully.

In the church where I got born again, I'd often see the pastor receive two or three offerings per service. He would receive the tithes and offerings, then the television offering, then the offering to help the poor, then the offering to help missionaries, and sometimes someone else would receive an offering for the pastor. God always had me around people who gave.

When I first got born again, I'd go over to the homes of other Christians and ask them to tell me stories about miracles they'd received from giving.

I've learned some principles from God's Word on giving:

- 1. When you give, give your best.**
- 2. Give as unto the Lord.**
- 3. Give with a cheerful heart.**
- 4. Give every day.**
- 5. Be a bountiful giver.**
- 6. Never let Satan keep you from giving.**

Satan will do everything he can to discourage you from giving, but as a minister of the gospel, I don't know of anything more important or beneficial to your life than giving. If there's anything I wish I had done better as a Christian, it would be to have given more. I think of opportunities I passed up when I could have given something but didn't.

No matter what, you've always got something you can give; no matter how difficult your financial condition may be, you've got a seed you can sow. You're not worse off than the widow woman in 1 Kings, ch. 17, and she gave the best she had out of her need. The woman in the next scripture also gave her best:

Mark 12:41-44: And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow,

and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called *unto him* his disciples, and saith unto them, **Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all *they* did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, *even* all her living.**

Jesus said this about God in John 3:16: **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** God didn't give to us because we were good people, or because we deserved it. He gave to us because He loved us, even though we were sinners, and when we weren't good people. ***The greatest expression of love is to give.***

Don't ever wait to give; *give today*. Give now. Whatever you have in your hand that's accessible to give, plant that seed. Take the last part of 2 Corinthians 9:6 and just keep quoting it to yourself. Say it over and over again and get it down inside your spirit, and then plant your seed. For example, if I want to plant a seed that seems big to me, and I don't have it all yet but I'm believing God to give me seed to sow, I'll give what I do have, and then I'll keep expecting bigger seed to sow. I'll keep saying to myself, "*I sow bountifully, and I reap bountifully.*" Then, when the bigger seed comes in, I plant that!

Start doing the same thing yourself until you become a cheerful giver, and you can't wait to give. Don't get mad about giving; it's an honor to give (Proverbs 3:9,10). You want to be the person who's always receiving more than enough from God. Don't waste your time wishing you had more! Just start out giving what you've already got.

And know this: if anyone you know had something big given to them by God, it's because they sowed big. *And you can be that person, too!* Just keep planting something every day until you're reaping every day, and just continue doing it. The kingdom of God operates on the seed principle, and you know that if you read the Bible.

My pastor always said, "*You can't out give God.*" He's right, so keep sowing. Keep walking in love, don't hold any unforgiveness against anyone, give cheerfully, give as unto the Lord, and look to God for your harvest! Keep your heart on the Lord of the harvest (Matthew 9:37,38). God bless.

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

Your Word of faith pastor,

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