

Listening to Your Heart in Giving

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 AMP:

[Remember] this: he who sows sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows generously [that blessings may come to someone] will also reap generously and with blessings.

Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, "prompt to do it") giver [whose heart is in his giving].

And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation].

As it is written, He [the benevolent person] scatters abroad; He gives to the poor; His deeds of justice and goodness and kindness and benevolence will go on and endure forever!

And [God] Who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your [resources for] sowing and increase the fruits of your righteousness [which manifests itself in active goodness, kindness, and charity]

Thus you will be enriched in all things and in every way, so that you can be generous, and [your generosity as it is] administered by us will bring forth thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 AMP

Ever since the time I got a hold of these scriptures, I've tried to read them every day. In fact, many times, I've quoted them to myself, just out of habit, to remind myself of what the Word says about my giving. The devil tries

to discourage us from giving. He'll bring thoughts to our mind, as well as feelings to our emotions in an attempt to prevent us from giving and to discourage us from believing God for a return on our giving.

In Bible school, I started to quote Galatians 6:9 to myself, which says, **And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. I needed God's financial help so desperately that I purposed in my heart to always give something every day. Sometimes, the only money I had that day was 35 cents, or a quarter, but I'd find someone and give it to them. It didn't make any difference if I knew them, or if they were at total stranger. I'd made the decision that every day, I was going to give.**

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

Mark 4:30-32 reads, **And [Jesus] said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.**

I realized that God's kingdom is founded on a "seed" principle. If I kept planting my seeds, someday, there would be a harvest that would start coming in for me. All my Bible school friends were givers, some of whom were close personal friends. They were great to hang around with. I saw the sacrifices they made in order to be a blessing to someone else. They'd do something good for people they didn't even know, and even for those who had treated them wrong. One's character manifests when it is put to the test.

Jesus said, **Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.** Matthew 5:43-45

We, as believers, have the Spirit of God living in us. God is always going to motivate us to be givers. When we give, we're following the Holy Spirit, whether we realize it or not. God takes what we give, and multiplies it back to us, for Jesus said in Luke 6:38, **Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and**

shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

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. John 3:16

And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. Mark 10:29,30

I wanted to follow Jesus when I got born again. He said **...follow me** in Mark 10:21. So, today, I know that when I give, I'm following Jesus, whether it is through my tithe, or an offering to the gospel, or giving to my church, or if I'm giving to the poor, as God said to do in Proverbs 19:17: **He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.**

I am also following Jesus when I fast and give the money to the poor that I would normally use for my food, for God said to in Isaiah 58:6,7: **Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?**

In our giving, we're to give as unto the Lord. **And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.** Colossians 3:17

We're to give with a joyful heart: **Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.** 2 Corinthians 9:7

When it comes to giving, don't listen to your head. Listen to your heart, and don't lose your joy. Just keep planting seeds. And don't let giving cause you to become angry. Always follow your heart, and keep it tender,

without becoming envious or jealous of others. We're not only to give to poor people; we also have to give to the wealthy, because God ministers to people through us. If you stop and think about it, we give to God, and there's no one wealthier than He is! He doesn't need anything we've got, because *He gave us everything we have*. He gave us the breath in our lungs, and the strength to work. God receives what we give, and He multiplies it back to us.

The key to long life, good health and staying young is to be a cheerful giver. People who seem to lose sight of their giving seemingly lose their youth. God designed us, created us, and engineered us (2 Corinthians 5:17) to love, forgive, and give -- ***the very attributes of Jesus!***

I want to encourage you to let God ***love*** through you, ***forgive*** through you and ***give*** through you. Plant a seed today and give God your best. Don't wait to give, and don't wait until you've got more before you give. The key to giving is ***give now***, and ***give what you have now***. Don't procrastinate. The key to receiving blessings is obedience. And, every day of your life, make giving your goal, and remember the Words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and how He said, ***It is more blessed to give than to receive*** (Acts 20:35).

God gave you this day, so use it for Him. Don't allow Satan to rob you of your joy; just keep rejoicing and thanking God that He's your great provider. God bless you. I know He has.

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

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