

The Heart of Giving & The Giving Heart

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

Three Truths to Acknowledge

God Owns Everything: *“All things come from you, and of your own have we given you. O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.” 1 Chronicles 29:14,16*

We are Stewards: *“It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.” 1 Corinthians 4:2. See Matthew 25:14-29.*

Our Handling of Money Reveals Our Heart: *“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Luke 12:34*

Three Attitudes to Cultivate

Gratitude: *“Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.” Hebrews 12:28*

Contentment: *“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’” Hebrews 13:5*

“I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:11-13 (NASU)

“If we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.”

1 Timothy 6:8

Eternal Perspective: *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.” Matthew 6:19,20*

Three Warnings of What to Avoid

Greed: *“Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation.” 1 Tim. 6:9*
“The cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.”
Mark 4:19

Debt: *“The borrower is the slave of the lender.” Proverbs 22:7*

Servitude: *“You cannot serve God and money.” Matthew 6:24*

Growing in the Grace of Giving

Three Words to Remember

WILLING

“I want it to be a willing gift, not one given grudgingly.”
2 Corinthians 9:5 (NLT)

Building the Tabernacle, Exodus 35. Especially vs. 5,21,22,26,29 and 36:2

Building the Temple: 1 Chronicles 29. Especially vs. 5,6,9,17

Relief Offering for the Saints: 2 Corinthians 8:11,12 and 9:5,7

GENEROUS

“Their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.”

“You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God...they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others.”

2 Corinthians 8:2 and 9:11-13

Building the Tabernacle: They gave too much! Exodus 36:3-7

Building the Temple: 1 Chronicles 29:16

Relief Offering for the Saints: 2 Corinthians 8:2 and 9:11,13

SACRIFICIAL

“They gave according to their means, and beyond their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints.” 2 Corinthians 8:3,4

“This poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.” Luke 21:3-4

“Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!”
2 Corinthians 9:15