

# **GUIDELINES FOR GIVING**

## **II Corinthians 9:6-7**

**Today we'll consider some of what the Bible says about how to give.**

### **I. GIVE GENEROUSLY** (6)

#### **A. CONSIDER THE SPARSE SOWER**

##### **1. His Nature**

- a. Stinginess: Not willing to let go of much of his seed - See Luke 16:19-21
- b. Greediness: Keeping most of the seed for himself - See Luke 12:13-21
- c. Pickiness: Carefully choosing that with which his seed will be involved

##### **2. His Harvest**

- He reaps sparingly

#### **B. CONTRAST THE BOUNTIFUL SOWER**

##### **1. His Nature**

- a. Freely giving: Putting lots of seed in many places
  - Example: David in I Sam. 30:21-25
- b. Frequent giving: More than one time
  - Example: Acts 2:44-45 and 4:32-47

##### **2. His Harvest**

- a. He reaps bountifully
- b. God gives this one sufficiency for necessities and surplus for good deeds (v.8)

#### **C. CAUTION THE NON-SOWER**

- 1. Reality: Paul gave no option for giving nothing
- 2. Example: Nabal in I Samuel 25:2-11
- 3. Advise: Give something - Even if it is small it will get you into the habit of giving

### **II. GIVE THOUGHTFULLY** (7a)

#### **A. THE INSTRUCTION**

##### **1. Deliberation is required**

- To "purpose" is to carefully consider or think things through

##### **2. A heart decision is required**

- a. This ought not be a head decision based only upon calculations
- b. This should be a spiritual matter

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## B. SOME APPLICATIONS

1. Think about the place to give - See I Cor. 16:1-2
2. Think about the people to whom you should give
  - Consider Gal. 6:10, I Cor. 9:11-14, James 1:27 and I John 3:17-18
3. Think about preparation for an upcoming project - Note 9:1-2
4. Think about planned giving from your estate - I Tim. 6:17-19

## III. GIVE CHEERFULLY (7b)

### A. THE GIVING GOD REJECTS

1. Giving with a grudge
  - Reluctant or regretted giving
2. Giving under duress
  - a. Under compulsion: Made to feel like you have to give
  - b. Giving due to intimidation or being shamed into giving
  - c. Treating your offering like a bill rather than a gift

### B. THE GIVING GOD REGARDS

1. The Details: God highly esteems happy givers
  - See for example Lydia in Acts 16:15& 40
2. The Demeanor: An excited anticipation
  - a. A unity in the church as it participates in giving what they can
  - b. Giving with joy because you're excited to see what God can do with it
    - Exp: The boy with the lunch in John 6:9
  - c. Giving what you have without concern about what you don't have
    - Exp: The widow who gave a cent to the temple - Mark 12:41-44

## CONCLUSION:

### **How should we give?**

1. We should give generously (6)
2. We should give thoughtfully (7a)
3. We should give cheerfully (7b)

### **Might we be a church of godly givers!**