

The Attitude Toward Giving

📖 2 Cor 9:7. What two attitudes should not characterize our giving? _____.

Grudgingly: Literally “not in grief”. Not like it’s something painful to do.

Of Necessity: We should not give because we feel compelled to give or because we have been made to feel guilty.

If these things characterize us, are we to stop giving? No. We are not to stop being obedient, we are to change our attitude towards this obedience. *If my child does not feel like obeying me I don't allow him to sit until he “feels good” about obeying. I expect him to obey **and** to change his attitude!* **Q.** What kind of giver does God love?

The Amount To Give

So we are settled that God is Sovereign, that we are Stewards, that we must Supply the needs of the church and that we must give in Sincerity, but how much should we give?

📖 2 Cor 9:7. What was Paul’s plan for giving? *Every man as...*

📖 1 Cor 16:2 Paul told the church to lay in store as God had _____ him.

Our giving is to be sincere, heart-felt and in recognition of God’s blessings on our life. As a result, every person’s amount of giving will be different. Let’s receive some guidelines from these examples:

1. The Israelites

A close study of the Old Testament reveals that the Israelites gave 3 tithes (one was every 3 years). These tithes totaled 23.3%.

2. The New Testament Church

According to Acts 4, many Christians sold their land, homes and possessions and gave to the church.

3. The Widow

Jesus tells us that this poor widow gave all that she had.

Obedient Christians throughout God’s word are characterized by liberal giving. *As we purpose in our hearts* the amount which God would have us to consistently give we should consider the above examples, the principles contained in this study and make it a matter of sincere prayer.

Giving is the Golden Key to God’s Blessing



13

Thursday

There are few other subjects that cause as much turmoil, division and conflict as that of Giving. Many accuse the church of “only caring about money”. The very fact that the subject of giving raises so much ire is probably the greatest proof that today’s society, including the Christians within it, have a wrong attitude toward money.

The church should not be preoccupied with the subject of money (as are many *Health and Wealth* preachers). But the fact remains that money is the engine on which our society runs. The church must contend with the same bills, repairs and emergencies that individuals do, yet the church has no source of income outside of the giving of its people.

Throughout this study we are going to look at **5 Biblical Principles for Giving**. These principles should help us to see Money from God’s perspective and cause us to handle it accordingly.

First let’s look at **The Principle of Sovereignty**

📖 **1 Chronicles 29:11** “...for _____ that is in the heaven and in the earth is _____.”

📖 **Psalms 50:12** “....for the _____ is _____, and the fulness thereof. (1Cor 10:26)

📖 **Deuteronomy 10:14.** **Q.** According to these verses, what is Gods? _____

📖 **1 Cor. 4:7.** According to this verse, we have R _____ all that we have.

Q. Considering these verses, what do you have that rightfully belongs to you? _____.

Sovereignty is God’s exclusive right to exercise supreme authority over everything. All that we have and all that we are is His! **How might we honour God’s sovereignty in our giving?**

Friday

The Stewardship & Sowing Principles

Yesterday we learned the Sovereignty Principle. That is, all things belong to God. 1 Cor 4:7 shows us that His Sovereignty extends even to our personal belongings. Although all things belong to God, he has **entrusted us** with the *care for and use of* his possessions. This is called **The Principle of Stewardship**.

📖 1 Cor 6:19, 20. **Q.** Who do we belong to? _____.

Q. Because we belong to God, what are we to do with our bodies?

📖 2 Cor 5:14,15 **Q.** Because Christ died for us how are we to live?

We see from these verses that God not only owns **everything**, but he also owns **everyone** who has been saved. Both passages first state his sovereignty (ye are not your own, ye are bought with a price, he died for all) and then state our rightful reaction to his sovereignty (therefore glorify God in your body, should not henceforth live unto themselves). The fact of His sovereignty should have real affects on the way in which we view and use our money.

📖 1 Cor 4:2. What's required of a steward? _____ness

As stewards we must be faithful in the way in which we spend God's time, talents and treasure in and outside of the church. Jesus gave a parable in Matthew 25 which indicates that one day we will be judged according to our handling of God's money here on earth. **Will you hear the words "Well done thou good and faithful servant"?**

The Principle of Sowing

In 2 Cor 9 Paul is speaking to the Corinthian church regarding their giving to other saints. He uses the illustration of a farmer planting seed. 📖 2 Cor 9:6. **Q.** What did he say would happen if one sows

bountifully? _____

The principle of sowing teaches that when we give bountifully, God will bless bountifully. 📖 Mal 3:10. **Q.** What did God promise Israel that he would do if they honoured Him with their tithes?

The principle of sowing applied in both the Old and New Testaments and still applies to us today. Like all areas of obedience to God, when we obey, we avail ourselves to his blessings. **Have you stopped the flow of God's blessings by disobeying him in the area of giving?**

Saturday

The Supply Principle

So far we have seen The Sovereignty, Stewardship and Sowing Principles. Today we are going to look at **The Supply Principle**.

📖 Php 4:19. What did Paul tell this church that God would do for them?

_____.

📖 Php 4:18 Why did Paul believe that God would supply their needs?

_____.

There is a direct correlation between God supplying our needs and the liberality with which we supply the needs of others.

📖 2 Cor 9:7. Paul said that as every man had purposed in his heart he was to _____.

📖 2 Cor 9:8. As a result of their cheerful giving, Paul told the Corinthians that God was able to make _____ grace abound to them, that they could have _____ sufficiency in _____ things.

Paul again emphasizes the direct connection between their giving to others, and God's desire to supply their needs. Why would God want to continue to supply the needs of this church? Look again at verse 8 "[that they] may abound to every good work". Because of their liberal giving, God knew he could entrust them with more. He would continue to provide for them so that they could abound in the work of God.

📖 2 Cor 9:10. What does God give to the sower? S _____ & B _____.

This speaks of a means to **sow** and a means to **survive**. God supplies the giver with his own needs and with the means to give to others. As long as God can count a man faithful to supply the needs of others, he will continue to bless with daily provision and excess to give to others. (and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

God has so arranged that the church is absolutely dependent on the obedience of it's people to supply it's financial needs. When God's people submit to the sovereignty of God as good stewards with a desire to supply the needs of others, the work of God will abound!

What would happen to the church if God's people were disobedient in this matter of giving?