

“Rooted and Built Up” Discipleship Program

Lesson Twelve- What is Giving?

Scripture- II Corinthians 8:1-9

Memory verse- II Corinthians 9:7, “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

INTRODUCTION- The greatest Giver of all is God, for not only has He given sinners His “only begotten Son”, but also God “giveth us richly all things to enjoy” (John 3:16; I Timothy 6:17). God is, then, the most perfect Example to mankind of gracious and sacrificial giving. In our text, the Apostle Paul uses the churches of Macedonia (northern Greece) as an example of giving for the churches of Achaia (southern Greece). While the Macedonian churches suffered poverty and many other afflictions, they still took joy in giving liberally “unto the Lord” (II Corinthians 8:2; I Chronicles



16:29). Giving is an integral part of the Christian life, for our Lord has said “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). It has been said that of the thirty-six parables of our Lord, seventeen of them dealt with property, stewardship, or giving. Christian giving is God’s plan for making us more like Himself. Giving reveals our obedience to God, our trust in God, and our concern for the work of God. Truly, biblical giving goes far beyond our money, for our it begins by giving of ourselves to the Lord (II Corinthians 8:5); however, when our “heart” belongs to the Lord, our “resources” are His, as well (Luke 12:34). In this lesson, we will learn what the Bible has to say in answer to the question–What is Giving?

I. THE BARE “ _____ ” OF OUR GIVING

- A. God _____ all things.**
(John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Psalm 24:1, 89:11; Job 41:11)
- B. Man _____ God’s things.**
(Luke 16:2; Romans 14:12)
- C. Man _____ God’s tithe.**
(Genesis 14:18-20, 28:20-22; Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42, 18:12; Hebrews 7:8)

II. THE BIBLICAL “ ” OF OUR GIVING

A. **We are to give “_____ our power” (II Corinthians 8:3).**

Everyone of us have the “power” to give 10% of our increase unto the Lord. Giving beyond your power requires love for the Lord, as well as faith in the Lord. When we give above what is required of God (tithes), we have entered into the arena of giving offerings (I Corinthians 16:1-2; Philippians 4:19; Matthew 10:42; I Timothy 6:8).

B. **We are to give “by _____ in our hearts” (II Corinthians 9:7).**

The average Christian gives from their conscience and not from their heart. God would have us give by determining the amount we shall bring to Him above His tithe before we come to His church. Too many believers give on impulse– if they have it, feel moved to give it, or think to receive men’s praise because they gave it. When we decide what we will give before coming into God’s house, we will anticipate the offering and give cheerfully.

C. **We are to give “as God hath _____” (I Corinthians 16:2).**

God holds us accountable for our giving only to the degree that He prospers us. The Scripture teaches us that we glorify the Lord by bringing to Him the “*first-fruits of all thine increase*” (Proverbs 3:9-10).

III. CONCLUSION

Scripture reveals a beautiful feature in God that He “*is no Respector of persons*” (Acts 10:34). Imagine our church is composed of many vessels, some large and some small. Then, let us think of each member in terms of capacity. Some vessels have the capacity for one hundred gallons, while others might hold only five gallons. Now comes the time in each service to receive the tithe of each vessel. The hundred-gallon vessel bestows ten gallons into the offering plate, but the five-gallon vessel places a mere two quarts into the plate. Which would you suppose worthy of the greater honor? If we are to judge by worldly standards, we might praise the vessel who gave the most. However, God views both vessels equally obedient and will not place a greater yoke upon those who possess more capacity to give or less commands upon those with weaker capacities. Both vessels owe all their substance to the same God, and each have paid the tithe. Instead of looking upon the giving of others, let us focus upon our own giving to the Lord.

Student tip- Christian giving contradicts the natural course of the human heart, which says “keep”, by injecting a new command, which says “give”.