

THE SIMPLICITY OF GIVING

Romans 12:8 |

“Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: ***he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity;*** he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”

- God desires that we as His people give effortlessly.
- In other words, giving should never be drudgery. In fact, **2 Corinthians 9:7** states,

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, **so let him give; *not grudgingly,*** or of necessity: ***for God loveth a cheerful giver.***”

- Giving with simplicity means we are to give with a willing and ***cheerful heart.***
- This manner of giving can be seen in James 1:5 where the Lord gives wisdom (*which the Bible tells us is greater than rubies or gold*).

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, ***that giveth to all men liberally,*** and ***upbraideth not;*** and it shall be given him.”

- The Bible teaches us that when God gives wisdom, He doesn't "**upbraid**" when giving to the recipient. Wisdom is a gift that the Lord gives liberally to all who ask.
- How we give is largely based upon the attitude we have when we give.

HOW TO GIVE WITH SIMPLICITY

1. REMEMBER THE SOURCE OF OUR RESOURCES

James 1:17 |

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

- Giving with simplicity becomes easier when we understand that we are simply funneling that which God has given to us.
- We often say that we are the stewards of God, and this is true. What God gives to us we are to manage so that we may distribute it to others.

2 Corinthians 9:8 |

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:”

- When we come to an understanding that the Source of our resources is the Lord, giving with simplicity becomes a matter of cheer.

Deuteronomy 8:18 |

“But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is **he that giveth thee power to get wealth**, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.”

- We are more apt to release the resources necessary to fund the work of God when we realize that God Himself placed it in our hands for that very purpose.

“All too often we regard stewardship simply as a matter of our giving to God, but this aspect is secondary. Before we can give, we must possess, and before we possess we must receive. Therefore, stewardship is, in the first place, receiving God’s good and bounteous gifts. And once received, those gifts are not to be used solely for our own good. They must also be used for the benefit of others, and ultimately for the glory of God the giver. The steward needs an open hand to receive from God and then an active hand to give to God and to others.”

- The Bible is true when it states that it is God that giveth us the power to get wealth. But when gained, we are to distribute it generously to those in need.

Proverbs 3:27 |

“Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.”

2. RECOGNIZE THE TRUE RECIPIENT OF THE BLESSING

Acts 20:35 |

“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, ***It is more blessed to give than to receive.***”

- More than likely, we have been taught our whole lives that receiving a gift is far more enjoyable than giving one.
- However, biblically this is not true. You see, the blessings of God can be compared to a water pump that uses water to prime it. Water is used to prime the pump and get it going which results in getting more water.

Proverbs 11:25 |

“The liberal soul shall be made fat: *and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.*”

- **When we give, God assures us that He will continue to give to us. Therefore, the primary recipient of the gift is the giver!**

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.”

- When we give we become the recipients of the blessing because God funnels it right back to us to give out once again.
- It’s easier to give with simplicity when we understand that we will be blessed because of it.

3. BE READY TO DISTRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF GOD

I Timothy 6:17-19 |

“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That

they do good, that they be rich in good works, **ready to distribute**, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

- Giving with simplicity comes as a result of being ready to give when the opportunity presents itself.
- Giving should not be something that we **might do**, or are **praying about doing**. Giving, like every discipline in the Christian life, should be something we are **ready to do**.

Galatians 6:10|

“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

- In this life we will have multiple opportunities to give of our resources to the work of God.
- However, those opportunities will not always be there. Being ready to give takes willingness, preparation, and a resolve.

“I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of God. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be

given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I shall most promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time or eternity.”—David Livingstone