

Growing Together Campaign – Lesson #3

The Motives of Giving

Sunday, May 12, 2013

- The Word of God gives us so many amazing reasons for giving to Him that we shouldn't need any tricks, gimmicks, or weepy stories to motivate people to give.
 - Giving isn't just money by the way.
- In 2 Cor. 8-9, we find hidden motives which, when recognized, result in generous giving to God and His work.

1. The motive of Grace

- Four times in chapter 8, and twice in chapter 9, Paul mentions the grace of God.

2 Cor 8:1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

2 Cor 8:6-7 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

Therefore, as ye abound in every *thing*, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, *see* that ye abound in this grace also.

2 Cor 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

- It is amazing that in the central passage on giving in the New Testament, grace is the theme, being mentioned six times.
- It seems that in the Old Testament, God said, “Do this, and I will bless you.”
- But in the New Testament, He says, “I have blessed you, now do this.”
 - The difference between giving in the Old Testament and the New is one of motive.
 - In the Old Testament, they gave to be blessed, in the New, we give because we are already blessed.
- So because of the grace of God experienced in our lives we give sacrificially to God.

2. The motive of Gratitude

2 Cor 9:11-12 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

2 Co 9:15 Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift.

- It will be a gift born out thanksgiving for what we ourselves have been given.
- Gratitude is the greatest antidote to New Testament believers being stuck in the 10 percent rut in their giving.

Philippians 4:14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

a. Giving brings blessing to those who receive the gift

- The beneficiaries of the gift.
 - That's why as parents we enjoy Christmas more than when we were children.
- This could be for those for years to come.

b. Giving gives blessing to God

- The one who benefits us.
- God doesn't need it, but He is blessed by our sincere love for Him shown by our giving.

c. Giving brings blessing to the One who gives the gift

- The benefactor

3. The motive of Gladness

2 Cor 8:2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

2 Cor 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.

- The word "cheerful" means "hilarious."
- Joy comes from willingly obeying the Lord.
- Miser is from miserable.
- Selfish people are really never happy.
 - Two men order fish- one plate one bigger story.

4. The motive of Gain

- Many people's first question, to themselves if not out loud, is, "What am I going to get out of giving to God?"
 - That is not the best reason to give.
 - Ill like people giving for tax reasons.
 - By the way that's not wrong- its good stewardship
- Paul is not hesitant to talk about abundance in giving or an abundance of blessing which comes from giving. The words "abound," "bountiful," and "abundance".
- **Six kinds of abundance God provides to those who give generously:**
 - *The abundance of joy*
 - They have learned to find great joy in having generous spirit and an open hand toward God and others (8:2).
 - *The abundance of riches*
 - Verse 2, liberality is a financial term indicating that they had been blessed to be able to give.
 - *The abundance of supply*
 - 9:8
 - *The abundance of grace*
 - 9:8, "for every good work."
 - *The abundance of service*
 - 9:11-12
 - *The abundance of thanksgiving*

5. The motive of God's Gift

- The last motive for our giving to God is His gift to us, Jesus Christ.
- The giving of Christ to the world was even greater.

2 Cor 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich..

- **There are four stages in 2 Cor. 8:9—two that concern the Lord and two that concern us.**

- *Stage number one: “though He was rich.”*
 - Everything in heaven and on earth was His.
- *Stage number two: “yet for your sakes **He became poor.**”*
 - As Paul describes in Phil. 2, Christ took on the nature and form of a servant and became obedient to death on a cross.
 - He set aside His riches and became poor.
- *Stage number three: “**for your sakes** He became poor.”*
 - Jesus Christ came to earth and identified with those of us who were spiritually poor.
 - Jesus had to come to earth to save us, and He gave up the glory and riches of heaven to do that.
 - We were poor in every way that is important.
- *Stage number four: “that you through His poverty might become rich.”*
 - Jesus took on our poverty so that we might take on His riches.
- When I realize that I have become rich through His voluntary sacrifice for my spiritual poverty, I want to offer praise to Him with the same kind of generosity He showed toward me.
- ***Lack of money is not the problem in the church. The problem is in the hearts of Christians.***
 - Ill Pastor good news and bad news about building. Good news is that we have the money we need. The bad news is that it’s in your pockets.