

God Loves A Cheerful Giver Part 1

“6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 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. 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:” (2 Corinthians 9:6-8 KJV) .

We will start speaking in this series of messages about giving and I will tackle the writing of Apostle Paul to them at the church of the Corinthians. Giving is the very important aspect in the life of the believer and the followers of Christ. **First what you need to give is your heart, your life fully, your future, your plan, and your will to God.** Here is saying he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly and he who sows generously shall reap generously, ***“6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” (2 Corinthians 9:6 KJV)*** **How much you are willing to give to God is the most important fact. Salvation is free; indeed is free, but it costs all your life because after the salvation God will ask you to give your life, future, your ambition, desire, talents and will; to give them all unto Him.** Why God used and stated sowing here? Why Apostle Paul used sowing here, because the farmer in sowing, he put all his capital, the seed that he bought under the ground. He put his capital under the ground because he has faith that the rain will come, and it will cause the seed to grow and bring the harvest. **Therefore when we sow generously it means that we are living fully to give to God everything that he had given us and as we sow generously we will reap generously, as Paul supposed and said, “God loveth a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7 KJV)**

And many they say and stress on, ***“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart,” (2 Corinthians 9:7 KJV)*** They use that statement because Apostle Paul said that everyone needed to give what he decided to give and purposed in his heart. But there is a consequence of that, those who sow sparingly would not be able to reap the blessing of God. **I tell you those who are not willing to give to God they are in a lot of troubles in their life, they are in lot of difficulties, struggles, and every now and then they are in trouble.** And I have a famous saying: ‘it is very impossible to work with somebody who does not want to tithe his income, does not want to give what due to God, because sparingly they receive the blessing of the Lord.’ The blessing of the Lord around them but it will not reach them because their purpose in their heart that they will sow sparingly, and we as a church continue to challenge those people and to challenge you to give your tithes, your firstfruits, your offering, and before that, your heart, your time, and everything. **Yes you need to give everything because Christ when he came, he gave everything to God and we who are followers of Him, as God loves a cheerful giver, we give everything to Him.**

Every time you give you must be happy to give, and that is the criteria of giving and that what Apostle say ***“not grudgingly” (2 Corinthians 9:7 KJV)*** Not that you are forced to give, No; but as the Scripture says not grudgingly that you don’t resist and

don’t expect from the church or from me to tell you that is up to you. Instead we will continue to teach you because this is our responsibility until you reach that level of sowing generously, and to be a cheerful giver to give what is belong to God.

We are discussing in this series of messages about giving from what Apostle Paul did for the Corinthians church to understand that they needed to go to the level that God wanted them to reach. When he says, ***“or of necessity” (2 Corinthians 9:7 KJV)***, what he meant not that you give because you expect to receive something from God. That is not the way of giving at all; what is written you do and don’t expect that when you will give to God He will give you back. No, that is not correct, because it is up to Him, but when I give I love God and I want to obey Him, I want to do what the Word of God says, and that’s the purpose that I want to be obedient because I want God to be happy with me. I want to please God because God loves a cheerful giver. Many they preach that God love’s a cheerful giver but we need to ask also, if somebody who does not want to give will he receives God’s love? The love of God will not reach him because he is not sowing, and the love of God will reach him when he will start to sow. Therefore I will continue to work with God and with His Word, and I will do whatever I can do in order to encourage you to sow generously. I will continue to encourage you to sow more and to sow not because you are forced to do and not because you are expecting something to receive from God, but you will do that because you want to obey God and you want to feel the love of God and that you love God.

It is hard to work with somebody who does not tithe and does not want to give; as if a car without oil, and without petrol, it is very hard and you need to push it every now and then. Every now and then problems, new problems and new troubles arise.

And what is more? We need to give everything not only finances, time and effort and ambition, but to give up everything wrong, and to give what is right. And in **2 Corinthians 9:8** the Word of God says, ***“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:”*** to whom he says this one? He says that to the cheerful givers.

But those believers who do not want to give, God will not allow His grace to be abounding around them. They are always in lack, even there is everything around them, but they cannot reach. **Therefore give cheerfully because God is able to make all grace abound toward you so don’t be afraid. Give cheerfully and don’t put condition on God, and don’t wait to be forced, and I will continue to teach you and admonish you until you will reach the standard of what God wants you to be in giving, and you will be always having all sufficiency to share all things being well provided, that you have a comfortable life and that you will abound in every good work. Such will enable you to serve God in a better way.**

I teach all of you, small or big, fathers, mothers, parents, grandparents, pastors, workers, teachers, members to continue to give to God. If you have given one hand you give now two. If you had given two hands give now your legs, if you have given all your body, give now your possession to him, give what is in your mind, give your plan to him, for everything belong to God.

We continue to speak about giving and how Apostle Paul dealt with the church of Corinthians. ***“7 Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? 8 Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?” (2 Corinthians 9:7-8 KJV)*** Here Apostle Paul the one who planted the church in Corinth, and was asking them to give what was due for him. Paul made his work to plant the church similar to somebody who was called to warfare, who go for war, that he will not be the one to pay for the expenses but there is the whole nation will support that warfare, not he alone. He will go to fight but the support will go after him. Paul also made his work in planting the church the same to the one who plants a vineyard, that after he planted the vineyard, or the church, day by day he will eat from it so his life and living will be sustained; that his expenses will be sustained from that church he planted as the farmer in the vineyard. Paul also made his work in planting the church similar also to the one who is attending and feeding a flock, that the one who have the flock, who feed them, bring them out and in, he will finally drink the milk of the flock that his daily living, his daily food will come out from that flock. And Apostle Paul asked them, ***“8 Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?” (2 Corinthians 9:8 KJV)*** He asked them whether man would say this things? A man who has such an opinion, and then he asked them was not the law states the same? But which law he meant? No other law, but the law of God. The Law of God what he mean with is the law of God that He gave to Moses. Many when I say bring your tithes and your firstfruits, they will say that is the law of Moses. Yes that is the law of Moses and the death of Jesus on the cross did not cancel that part of giving of the law that was given through Moses. If God had canceled the giving of the tithes and the firstfruits Apostle Paul would not remind them about the law of Moses because that is still valid. You know the law of Moses, God put in it giving to the priests and to the Levites to sustain their living, and when Jesus died on the cross that was not cancelled in order to maintain the work and the ministry of God and sustain those who are full time in serving God.

You may say how Paul spoke to the Corinthians such and they are Gentiles? Yes he spoke that to them because this is the Word of God. And in the church of Corinth if you read ***Acts 18:1-8***, you can catch who are the members of the Corinthians church. They were not only the Gentiles but they had Jewish people with them and they knew when he said about the law, he meant the law of God that he gave to Moses, that he meant the tithes, the firstfruits, and the various offerings that still needed to be given in the form of finances and not in the form of cattle; oxen, sheep, goats and birds, but in the form of material things to support the living of the full time ministers of God that they were set aside to serve God. This message is so important because I have met many preachers who are against tithing because they don't know what the Scripture speaks, and they don't know what Paul said to the Corinthians. Lets read ***Acts 18*** so that you will understand Paul was speaking to whom, ***“1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; 2 And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. 3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every***

sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. 5 And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. 6 And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean; from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles. 7 And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue. 8 And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.” (Acts 18:1-8 KJV) See here Paul preached the gospel to the Jewish and with him were Aquila and Priscilla who were also Jewish, but they were believers. The people of the synagogue did not accept him there, so he went out but who followed him? Followed him Crispus who was a Jewish and the chief ruler of the synagogue and got water baptized and he became part of the church at Corinth and that is the letter of Paul to the people of the Corinthians, when he spoke about the law of God for he knew what he was saying to them. They knew now and very clear what God had said and what they supposed to give to the priests and to the Levites, but now needed to be given to Apostle Paul and his workers who were full time to support their work so that the works of the church and the ministry will continue as God ordained.

“9 For it is written in the law of Moses, thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? 10 Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.” (1 Corinthians 9:9-10 KJV) Here Apostle Paul quote a verse from the law of Moses in order to convince them that they needed to give what was due for God to him and to his workers to continue the works of God and His ministries. He quoted that from here, ***“4 Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn.” (Deuteronomy 25:4 KJV)*** This verse when you read it along with other verses in ***Deuteronomy 24*** there is nothing mention about giving, but Paul still used that and showed them by argument that God said that not only for the sake of the oxen to be fed so the oxen can work better, but as well as for their sakes also so that their needs would be met, their living would be more secured and their ministry would be more effective as they would be having the support of the church. That when they will work hard to plow the ground and when they will labor in harvest they were assured of the hope in sharing with the harvest that they had labored in investing their lives. Now if it reached to the point that Paul used that example of oxen in asking them to be responsible for his living, sure he had spoken to them about tithing, giving the firstfruits and various offerings that they needed to offer to God and giving to him and his laborers. But they were stubborn and selfish not willing to obey and that was why he was compelled to use all what he could use from the law of Moses to convince them to give. Paul was rebuking them with such teaching about the oxen, he was telling them that he labored for them as that oxen, and they failed to feed him; shame on them the way they treated him badly, for the oxen had no way to go and eat in other place but from the ground that he was labored in, the same for Paul and his workers who they invested and dedicated their lives to work for the Corinthians but the Corinthians not only failed to feed them and give what was due for them, but even their needs they did not meet. Now to those who use ***2 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.”*** This Paul did not say it in pertains giving the tithes and the firstfruits and the various offerings to support those who are full time and are serving you and the church that God had placed you in. Paul said ***2***

Corinthians 9:7 about giving alms to the poor saints, the apostles of Jesus Christ who were in Jerusalem, and that was an additional item of giving the Corinthians were required to give.

The Jewish believers among the Corinthians should be the one to give first so others who were of the Gentiles will follow and give the same. What I want to say here that those who are old in faith they should be willing to obey so that they can set good example to others to follow and it will be easy for us as a church to teach them God's Word. When Paul said the following: **"10 Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope."** (1 Corinthians 9:10 KJV) what he was telling them that they were laboring hard as the oxen in plowing the ground and they were spending time and effort and their life in that business of making disciples and teaching them God's Word, and he was expecting that his labor would not be in vain, that when he would help them and invest on them that they will be the one to support him so that the works of God would continue. What can be understood is that if they would fail him from doing that then such was a betrayal from their side toward him who was very faithful to them. **Giving in the proper manner and in right amount is your faithfulness to God and to the church of God and to those who taught you the Word of God. Putting in your mind that giving is not material things and finances but as well as your time, effort, your future and all what you have from resources in the works of God to support and to continue the ministries of God that had reached you and you are part of it.**

"11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?" (1 Corinthians 9:11 KJV) Here Paul was challenging them and explained to them that they had sown in their lives the spiritual things, meaning the Word of God and taught them God's law and how to worship God, how to serve him and how to live for him. Then he asked them if they had done all those good things to them in introducing Christ and His Word and God's will to them, was it much if they would harvest material things from them to sustain their living and their ministry being in full time and service? So he was telling them that it was fair that as he spent time and invest in their lives to sow the Word of God, then it was ought to them to give him, and for him to reap material things from them. But it is not only and not merely for the carnal things that Paul was after them, for since he invested his life on them then he was desiring to see them investing their lives in the works and the ministry that God started in them through him. **Salvation is free but to reach Heaven you need to give all what you have to God. Before giving your tithes, your offerings, your firstfruits and vows to God you need to give your heart, your time, your future, your ambition and your will to God.** I have a famous saying, if a person does not know how to give his tithes, I doubt if he had given his life in Christ. **As we invest our lives to teach you we are expecting from you when you will grow you will invest your life to continue to live in the style of life that we taught you to follow,** the style of not to watch TV, not to put make up, not to give mobile to a child who is not yet 18 years old, not to allow boyfriend and girlfriend and the rest of the teaching and the discipline that I had imparted to you to keep holiness and to live for Christ. **I did not invest and dedicate my life to teach you then later on to see you living in worldly ways.**

"12 If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ." (1 Corinthians 9:12 KJV) When Paul was telling them, **"If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather?"** It means here that the Corinthians were giving their material things to others, and most likely they were giving to the false teachers and to the false shepherds who were going along their wishes and not giving them the true teaching, and who serve only to meet their evil desires. So here we can understand that Paul was directing them to give their tithes, various offerings and firstfruits to God in giving him being the true servant of God who taught them how to follow God correctly. **Then this we do when we teach the people we direct them not to direct their financial resources to false churches and false shepherds who teach them false things and mislead them, but to give it to our church as we continue to teach them the sound Word of God. That is why we direct you to move away from worldly churches and pastors who condone you and go along your wishes and instruct you to receive what we teach you and put it into practice and to direct your finances to give to our church who are teaching you what is correct and disciplining you in line with the Scripture.**

When Paul says, **"Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ"**, that means although he was teaching them to give him, but in reality he did not receive yet, and he did not use that privilege even if they would give, or even if they had given, but he deprived himself from it, most likely to avoid their criticism so he will not hinder the spread of the gospel. Perhaps they were speaking against him that he was using the ministry to make gain, and that would ultimately lead to hinder the spread of the gospel, and that was why Paul decided to suffer rather than to receive from them as we read here so that his reputation would be kept being honest and with pure motive in serving God, **"15 But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void. 16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! 17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me. 18 What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel."** (1 Corinthians 9:15-18 KJV) So Paul was teaching them to give what is due to God to him but he was not yet taking from them because they were doubting and entertaining wrong thoughts about him in order to remove such thoughts from their minds, and I will show you from where these wrong thought came and who put them in their minds. Therefore he committed himself to preach the gospel to them as was commissioned by God and he would be cursed if he would not do that, and there was no glory in that because that was his assignment from God, **"16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"** (1 Corinthians 9:16 KJV) and he told them that he was not writing that to them so he will receive from them for he decided not to depend on them and he was proud and confident that he was doing the correct thing and did not want any to take that glory from him and he preferred death than this glory of preaching the gospel free to them be taken away from him, **"15 But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void."** (1 Corinthians 9:15 KJV) although he needed to teach them to give to God in giving to him and not to other false teachers, and he further explained to

them that he was doing that willingly and gladly, for he had a reward for that, and his reward he will receive when he will preach to them the gospel and teach them freely, and not to use his authority to take from them when they were not willing to pay, ***“17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me. 18 What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.” (1 Corinthians 9:17-18 KJV)*** Paul was waiting for God to reward him, and his needs was met from other churches who were accepting his authority as an apostle and trusting his honesty and his motive in service. And as he did such, he used it to rebuke the Corinthians further in telling them that he served them freely and used resources from other churches to serve them in order for them to be put to shame in order to repent, ***“7 Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely? 8 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.” (2 Corinthians 11:7-6 KJV)*** Even when he was with them as he stayed there for eighteen months and he was in need he did not ask them and did not make of himself a burden on them, ***“9 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.” (2 Corinthians 11:9 KJV)*** so that no one would be able to stop him from glorying in himself that he was provided well without receiving from the Corinthians or depending on them, ***“10 As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia. ” (2 Corinthians 11:10 KJV)*** He did not take from them not because he was angry with them or because he did not love them, ***“11 Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth.” (2 Corinthians 11:11 KJV)*** but he wanted to be differentiated from others and to cut any occasion from them who were waiting for him to receive from the Corinthians to make themselves equal to him, ***“12 But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.” (2 Corinthians 11:12 KJV)*** But who were those? Those to whom the Corinthians were giving them their finances as we can understand from ***1 Corinthians 9:12, “12 If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 9:12 KJV)*** and who were those and why Paul did not want them to be equal to him and why did not want the Corinthians to give them but to give to him? Here is the answer: ***“13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” (2 Corinthians 11:13-15 KJV)*** They were false teachers misleading the Corinthians and most likely they were the one who poisoned their minds toward Paul, and Paul was doing his best in order to avoid their accusations of being serving for gain, and to take away the Corinthians and set them free from their bondage of false and misleading teaching.

Also why Paul did not take from them or he did not use what he collected from them because after all his needs would not be met by them but by God who provides to those

who serve Him. **In the same way we continue to teach you and to admonish you to give, because we need to teach and you need to give, putting in your mind that all what we ask you to give we practice the same, but our resources of living is not from you but from God who sustains us. God is faithful who provides to His servants and our eyes are on Him to provide for us and not on what you are giving.**

My dear and beloved: Let us now come to God, let us be willing to sow generously. Give Him your heart, your life, your time, your will, your ambition and your will. You had given to God one day per week, you give Him now two. You had given Him two, you give him now three. You had given Him three you give him now five, if five days make it six, and if it six make it seven. If you had give him two hours per day make it three or four and so on, God loves a cheerful giver and more of the grace of God will be abound in your life, and you will be having sufficiency and be well provided, and more of the Holy Spirit work and grace in your life. You will be living in God’s presence and God shall work mightily in you that you will be producing more services and that God’s good work shall be abound in you. Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your clear Word to me about giving and its importance for my life and for the life of your church and ministries. Lord thank you for all the resources that you had placed in my life to be used for your glory. Lord thank you for the teaching, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.

Confess and renounce all your sins. Renounce greed, selfishness, ungratefulness, worldliness, and non willingness to suffer and go through the narrow way. Confess your non willingness to give your tithes, offerings and your firstfruits. Confess and renounce your giving of financial support to false teachers and false shepherds who are condoning your sins and non willing to discipline you. Repent of your non willingness to commit yourself to do the good works that God had prepared for you to do. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins

Lord thank you for your Word to us. Lord I am willing to sow generously to reap generously more. Lord I am willing to give generously not grudgingly, not of necessity oh God but because you love a cheerful giver and I love you Lord and I want to do your will. Lord I give you my life, my heart, my whole body, my future, my plan, and to give up all wrong things, and to give all good things that you want me to give. Lord I place them all in your hand and in the hand of your church to be used for your glory

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented and had committed their lives to serve you and to do the very things that we had studied in this message. Lord guide them in the whole truth, and lead them to do your will. Oh God bless all the teachers, the pastors, parents, children, families with the gift of giving unto you Lord. Lord protect them and provide all their needs and sustain them in the narrow way to persevere until they will harvest your promises.

Lord thank you for your Word that you send to us on time to help us to go on and serve you wholeheartedly. Lord I pray to anoint this message and use it to reach the rest of the congregations of the church and your workers, teachers, pastors, evangelists, families and

parents, so that they will know your will so that they will abound everyone of them after they will obey you with every good work. O God Let them fear you that they will do what you ordained for them to do so that they will be blessed that the church and the ministry of yours will be blessed. Lord I pray to raise up a generation who are filled with the Holy Spirit, workers, laborers whom you sent in the fields of yours to reach the lost, to evangelize and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church and to do your work and finish it. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord prepare us for your coming that when you come we will go with you. Lord bless us enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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