

## Giving That Glorifies (Part 2)

**“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”** **2 Corinthians 9:7**

The grace of giving is an act of love that comes from the heart of true worshippers of God. However, as I mentioned in part one of this article, many Christians today seem to have lost their focus when it comes to this important act of worship. As a result, the church suffers and is hindered from accomplishing its purpose. Additionally, many individual Christians don't realize how their blessings are affected by their obedience when it comes to giving unto the Lord (Haggai 1:2-10). Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit has given us much teaching on how to give in a way that glorifies God. All we have to do is take heed.

Last week, I asked you to consider how God has blessed you and reflect on your love for Him. Our love for God and our gratitude for all He has done should move us to say “I love you, Lord” by what and how we give. Giving is more of a heart issue than a money issue when it comes to God. God does not need our money to be God. However, when we give as we should unto the Lord (the kingdom of God which includes the church) it reflects our faith, love and obedience...and this is what God is looking at (see Mark 12:41-44).

Following Paul's instructions to the church at Corinth in 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9, you can glorify God through your giving by doing the following:

1. **Give Yourself to the Lord** (2 Corinthians 8:5; Romans 12:1-2) – Surrender your heart, soul and mind to God and His will. Recognize that every blessing, including the money you have, is from God (James 1:17) and is to be used, FIRST, for His purpose. Remember the command and promise of Christ in Matthew 6:33
2. **Choose to be a Giver** (2 Corinthians 8:12; Acts 20:35) – Where there is a will, we make a way. Decide today that you want to glorify God through your giving. Don't focus on what you don't have. Focus on showing your love by giving from what you do have.
3. **Give Generously** (2 Corinthians 9:6; Malachi 3:10) – It is true that we can't beat God giving. However, we can follow His example. Our God is a generous giver. He is not stingy when it comes to how He blesses His children. When we give liberally and unselfishly unto the Lord, we reap what we sow and are blessed accordingly.
4. **Give Purposely** (2 Corinthians 9:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2) – For far too many Christians, giving is an after-thought. Many give God what they have left instead of putting God first when deciding how to use the money God gives them. Whether its 10%, 20% or ?% of your income, decide beforehand what you are going to give from what God has given unto you. You should know and have your offering ready before you come to the house of God.
5. **Give Cheerfully** (2 Corinthians 9:7, Matthew 19:21-23) – There is nothing worse than doing something you don't want to do. God does not want you to feel like you are being forced to love Him against your will. Whatever you do for Him, He wants you to do it willingly and with faith, joy and gratitude.