

THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF GIVING

Text:

1 Corinthians 13:3: And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Romans 12:8b:

He that giveth, let him do it with simplicity;

he that ruleth, with diligence;

he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

DEFINITION:

The Spiritual Gift of Giving is a special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain persons who regard it as a rare privilege to share what they have with others. It is not only the gifting of finances or one's material possessions. Paul's desire was to impart some spiritual gift to the Roman Christians - *to the end ye may be established.*



Romans 1:11: For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

John the Baptist answered the question of his new converts, as to what they should do.

Luke 3:11: He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

This kind of giving is to be done with simplicity. That is, it is to be *done with a single eye, to the glory of God*. It is not an act of giving to be seen by men, to brag or to show off. Jesus said:

Matthew 6:22: The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

In contrast with this singleness of a giving heart, we turn and see how the carnal people give:

1. Matthew 10:42:

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.



2. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5:

¹ Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the Grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

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.

³ For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;

⁴ Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

⁵ And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the Will of God.

3. 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.

4. Acts 2:44-45:

⁴⁴ ***And all that believed were together, and had all things common;***

⁴⁵ ***And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.***

5. Matthew 6:1-4:

¹ ***Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in Heaven.***

² ***Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.***

³ ***But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:***

⁴ ***That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward thee openly.***

6. Matthew 19:21: Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in Heaven: and come and follow Me.

Those who have this Gift of Giving regard giving as a rare privilege. Those who do not have this Gift of Giving, their gift is giving a burdensome necessity.

The following gift will be motivated by Divine Love.

1 Corinthians 13:3: And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

This gift has in it an alertness to perceive real and valid needs of others..

QUESTION: What do we mean by ***valid needs***?

ANSWER:

When an orphan or widow has pressing financial needs, which they cannot meet because of illness or responsibility of caring for their offspring, this is an example of a need that is valid.

And then there are those who have needs only because they are too lazy and slothful to seek for employment.

There are others who are in need because they have over spent and have gotten deep into debt.

Giving cheerfully to God's work is one of the greatest tests as to our consecration to Christ. Satan has tried to place in many a Christian's heart a grudging attitude toward the Church tithes and offerings. Only the Holy Spirit can impart a love to give to the work of the Lord. Barnabas was one of those whom the Holy Spirit calls to our attention. He was one who blessed the work of the Lord with his earthly possessions.

Acts 4:34-37:

³⁴ Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

³⁵ And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

³⁶ And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,

³⁷ Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

GIVING SPARINGLY will cause a person to REAP SPARINGLY

GIVING BOUNTIFULLY will cause a person to REAP BOUNTIFULLY:

2 Corinthians 9:6: But this I say, "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

PROMISES TO GIVERS

- 1. 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.***

2. ***Proverbs 3:9-10: Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: ¹⁰ So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.***
3. ***Proverbs 11:24-25:***
 - ²⁴ ***There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.***
 - ²⁵ ***The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.***

PROBLEMS and TEMPTATIONS IN GIVING

Giving in PRIDE, to show off.

Giving with the attitude that they MEASURE THEIR SPIRITUALITY by their GIFTS.

Giving with the thought in mind of an ATTEMPT TO CONTROL THE WORK OF GOD or the PASTOR.

THE GIFT OF GIVING

With this Gift of Giving one will often discern where to give and how much, even when no one has given them any instructions as to what they are to contribute.

This Gift of the Spirit causes one to distribute their God supplied finances to the cause of Christ in a way which is above the natural ability of a generous person.

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.

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