

TITHING: God's Plan For Blessing

December 2023

FIRST SUNDAY

We will give some attention to a few BASIC RULES of giving found in God's Word. By implementing the teachings revealed here, we open our lives to the greatness of God's provision and victory.

2 Corinthians 9:6–11

6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 9 As it is written:

***“He has dispersed abroad,
He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever.”***

10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

Paul was very clear. We CONTROL how God blesses us. A sparing investment will yield a sparing return. God will not extract from us the base of His blessing. He will not send the IRS to collect. The choice is ours.

We can sow...and in this case it speaks of finance...and expect God to bless. Or, we can refuse to sow, and we will miss the great chance for God to touch what we have given. Here's the question today: are you giving God something to bless?

SECOND SUNDAY

As we continue to look at the BASIC RULES given in the teaching of St Paul found in 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, we come to the second guideline: CHEERFULNESS.

We are told God loves a cheerful giver. I always hasten to add He will take money from you grouches as well...but He loves a hilarious giver!

I think this is because He is such a hilarious giver Himself. After all, look at what He has already given us, and what He promises to give on top of that.

Romans 8:32

TITHING: God's Plan For Blessing December 2023

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

If that were not so serious it would be a joke! After giving us His Son, now He promises to freely give us all things. No wonder God loves it when we blow others out of the water with our generosity...it's a side of Him we too seldom see.

Give...and shout about it...laugh about it...rejoice in it. You are making Father God happy!

THIRD SUNDAY

We have looked at two basic rules of giving: Control, the idea we control how God will bless us based on our giving and Cheerfulness, the attitude of joy which should accompany our giving. Today, we examine a third rule for giving: CARING.

Paul stated God would bless us so that we **“may have an abundance for every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8)**. Our blessings are not given just so we can have a better life, but also that we may extend the ministry of the gospel. In other words, we are blessed so we may demonstrate our care and the care of the Father. Our tithe demonstrates our care by involvement in a local church which touches people on a daily basis, right here. Our tithe demonstrates our care by involvement in a state program which touches other lives in our state. Our tithe demonstrates our care by involvement through a movement which takes the great news of Jesus along with resources to meet humanitarian needs around the globe through World Missions.

Tithers Care!

FOURTH SUNDAY

Rules which affect our giving: Control, Cheerfulness, Care...and today we examine the rule of COPYING.

When we tithe, when we give, we are actually copying the example set in the scripture.

Here's what Paul said. **As it is written, He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor, His righteousness endures forever. 2 Corinthians 9:9**

Here's what Paul quoted.

Psalm 112:9

TITHING: God's Plan For Blessing December 2023

**He has dispersed abroad,
He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever;
His horn will be exalted with honor.**

Read that Psalm and understand the many benefits which accrue to the man who fears the Lord...and generous giving is part of the reason for the many blessings.

Every time you tithe, you are copying what has been demonstrated in the Bible as behavior which is not only "God-like" but also "God-blessed."

FIFTH SUNDAY

One final rule of giving Paul laid out in 2 Corinthians 9:6-10. We have looked at Control, Cheerfulness, Caring, Copying. Today we need to focus on one more idea: CONTINUING.

Giving is not a one time, "whew, glad that's over" experience. Listen closely to what we are taught.

2 Corinthians 9:10

Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.

Paul penned the word "supplies" in what scholars call a "present" tense. Simply put, that means God is doing it "right now." There will not be a time in our lives when God is not "supplying" us with seed to sow. That means we are to continue...as God continues...tithing and giving. Just as the farmer sows seed, reaps grain, uses some to make bread and some to sow again...the process never ends...so we are to sow our finances into His kingdom, reap His blessing, sow again...until He comes!