



Inner Growth - Giver

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Give - Acts 20:35

Inside - Romans 8:10

Volunteer - Galatians 6:10

Eye - Psalms 32:8

Receive - James 1:7

First, God calls on every believer to decide in their heart and mind how much funds to give: they should follow through on that conviction. That number could be a set amount in a specific instance: it might be a percentage of one's income. It should never be more than one has in Second Corinthians eight verse twelve. It should be in proportion to what the receiver earns. The point is that it is an individual choice based on conscience and a person's relationship with God.

Why is this so important? It matters to God that Christian giving always be voluntary. It is not a tax or an obligation. A gift of money or anything else is only when the giver is not obligated to hand it over. The second truth about giving in this verse is this: God loves cheerful givers. The opportunity to meet the needs of others should delight God's children. When it does, He is delighted in them. A giver is naturally a person that gives. However, the person who will contribute to another must have a good attitude before they provide help, whether physically or financially. To set an example of how to behave at every

point of those we encounter. Otherwise, the chances of the aid or gift may not have a positive impact.

Rebekah, in Genesis twenty-four, sixteen through twenty, was a fair maiden that is an example of a giver who gave Abraham's servant some water to him and his camels at the well. Although there was a purpose for her to be there to meet him, she did not know that at the time. Rebekah went to the well like other times with her pitcher willingly to draw water. In verse eighteen, she said, "drink, my lord: and she hastened, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink. And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw *water* for thy camels also, until they have done drinking. And she hastened, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels."

Rebekah gives her labor to Abraham's servants by offering water to the owner and his camels. She was comfortable, honorable, pleasant, and profitable: the giver is in a more comfortable situation, having an abundance, at least a sufficiency, and something to spare. After drawing water for the servant, Rebekah insists on getting water for the camels. She hastened, emptied her pitcher, and ran again to the well to get more water. After Rebekah's response to helping, she receives an offer to go back to Abraham's servant village to marry Isaac.

A giver is someone that gives from the heart. Many people contribute, but some do it for different reasons. For a believer to be an effective giver, the presence of God's Holy Spirit must be in a person to operate in a way that will help change lives. Christians cannot do it on their own: God must be in the midst to intervene on their behalf.

God's Holy Spirit in a person is necessary for that person to be a Christian. For an unbeliever to become a believer, a person needs to give a vacancy for the Son of God to dwell in their heart for them to contribute with love. Without charity, giving will primarily be a good gesture but with no impact. The difference is the presence of God living within them.

The example that typifies giving from the heart is the widow's mite in Mark twelve forty-one

verse forty-four. Her contribution came with bravery, effectiveness, and a purpose that caused Jesus to point out to the others who gave. The widow put into the treasury all she had and held nothing back. Her giving was a sign of a loving contributor who made giving the treasury a priority over everything else. A giver is someone that offers. The person that comes forward without hesitation and not looking back: capitalizing on the opportunity to help another. The giver responds with a willingness to share unselfishly to support the need of others. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, here on earth during His time, did the will of the Father with love.

Uriah the Hittite was an example of a giver in the Second Chronicles eleven, where in verses three through seventeen, his actions of giving resonated until the day of his death. Uriah addresses David the King and shares his matters upon request. In verse nine, he slept at the door with all his servants instead of in his own house. Uriah faithfully responds to personal questions and spends a couple of days with the King as requested. Uriah unknowingly brings a letter to Joab concerning him where he fights on the frontlines of a fierce battle where they abandon him only for him to continue despite the retreat to become a casualty.

A giver will follow the instructions of those who have an eye on them. Those who follow godly wisdom can expect to learn the best way to live life as in Proverbs one, verse seven, and eight, verses thirty-four through thirty-six, respectively. A loving parent keeps his eyes on his child. He sees where the child endangers himself, perhaps by not looking as he crosses the street. Then the parent calls the child and tells him what to do.

How does God teach and guide believers? Jesus said He goes before His sheep, and they follow Him, as in the Gospel of John ten verse four. In First Peter two, verse twenty-one indicates that Christ left us an example so that we might follow in His steps. Jesus' life and complete submission to the Father, therefore, teaches and guides believers. Further, the Scriptures provide instruction so believers can be what God wants them to be and do what He wants them to do, as in Second Timothy three, sixteen through seventeen. The

indwelling of the Holy Spirit guides and transforms believers as in Romans eight twenty-six through thirty, First Corinthians two, ten through sixteen, and Philippians two, twelve through thirteen.

A true giver will give freely. Many people in society expect to receive something they contribute and distribute. In the church world, that mentality continues. Give to get: sow a seed, and the feedback is that a blessing will come your way. That is not what the Bible says but what man claims.

Freely you have received to give is supposed to be the life of a believer. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did the will of the Father. In the latter part of Luke twenty-two, the forty-second verse, Jesus states, "not my will, but thine, be done." Followers of Christ must realize that God supplies everything, as stated in the latter part of the First Corinthians three, verse twenty-one, "For all things are yours." We have all God has, but the only way to obtain this privilege is to have Him first.

The giver is someone who desires to give. Especially for believers, our desire should be to give ourselves willingly to do God's will. It's simple. However, the battle between the flesh, and mind, versus the inner person creates difficulty. The giver who claims to serve God must do it voluntarily. Jesus Christ did His work from the beginning until the day He went to the cross: giving Himself freely to bore our sins.