



July 17th, 2022 • 2 Corinthians 9:6-9
Topical Message • by Pastor Marcus Johnson



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Giving Generously as Cheerful Givers

- 1. We give generously & cheerfully because of God's grace:** given among the Macedonian churches & primarily thru Jesus Christ (2Co 8)
- 2. We give generously & cheerfully knowing we reap what we sow:** experiencing God's provisions as the harvest of our righteousness increases unto His glory (Gal 6:7-8; Mal 3:6-15; 2Co 9:10ff)
- 3. We give generously & cheerfully by deciding in our hearts what to give:** knowing that God loves a cheerful giver
(additional notes for point #3 are listed in the right hand column) ----->
- 4. We give generously & cheerfully by God's grace:** thru the local church, for the gospel & to help those in need, as we abound in every good work (*giving to our local church & as a local church for those who preach & teach the gospel, missionaries, widows/those in need among us & in the world:* 1Co 9:14; 16:1; 1Ti 5:3-18; Isa 58:6ff; Mt 25:31ff; Ac 2:42ff; Jm 1:27; 1Jn 3:17f)

Some Biblical Principles & Examples of Giving Generously & Cheerfully

Additional notes for point #3 – We give generously & cheerfully by deciding in our hearts what to give: knowing that God loves a cheerful giver

- 1st, Live & give by faith (see examples shared earlier in the sermon).
- 2nd, Remember that we are loving & worshiping God as we give an offering.
- 3rd, Turn to Scripture & godly counsel to decide in our hearts what to give: don't decide based on worldly standards of living and giving.
- 4th, Embrace the biblical principles of tithing (giving God a tenth) –
Note: It's difficult to figure out how to apply the OT command to tithe to the NT way of life, since tithing was commanded under the old covenant, but not taught (or clearly taught) in the NT (cf. Mt 23:23; Heb 7:2). Some thoughts: A) Examples of tithing are in Genesis before God gave the law thru Moses (Abraham, Ge 14:20; Jacob, Ge 28:22). B) It's difficult to figure out how much the OT tithe added up to (12 to 14 tithes were commanded during a 7yr period). So OT tithing might have equaled about 20%. C) The NT's emphasis is not on tithing (it's living by faith, generosity, etc.). D) Don't dismiss tithing. Everything written in the OT was written for our instruction (Ro 15:4), so embrace the principles of tithing: i) giving a tenth to God from what He's given to us; ii) giving our first-fruits; iii) heeding the warning of robbing God; iv) experiencing God's blessings as we give a tenth or more to the Lord. E) Two cautions: i) for those who emphasize that tithing isn't commanded in the NT, don't use this an excuse not to be generous, since there's no example in Scripture where giving less than a tithe is found to be pleasing to God; ii) for those who are dedicated to tithing, don't be prideful or dogmatic, since it is difficult to know exactly how much the OT tithe added up to (see above) and how it applies to the NT. Also note that tithing may not be generous for many of us living on a middle to upper-middle level income, & the NT exhorts Christians to be generous & cheerful givers.
- 5th, If you've have been robbing God, repent & make it right: if you decide in your heart that "I don't want to live this way anymore" and want to repent, figure out how much you've robbed God of, write out a check, and start giving back to the Lord with a generous & cheerful heart.
- 6th, Be radical & creative – Examples: A) If limited financially, give extra by serving others for free using your skills/talents. B) If you are buying a newer car, give your older car away to someone in need. C) If you have savings built up, give \$1000 to \$3000 to someone who has a lot of medical bills, or give these funds to our Benevolent fund, Jared & Betsy Anderson, CEF or The Bridge. D) If you go on yearly vacations, skip taking a vacation next year & give what you would have spent to a ministry or a missionary instead.