

GIVING BACK

Guard Rails: Conclusion

February 19, 2023

Pastor Brian

2 Corinthians 8-9

“One of [the Jerusalem leaders] named Agabus stood up in one of the meetings and predicted by the Spirit that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world. (This was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius.) So the believers in Antioch decided to send relief to the brothers and sisters in Judea, everyone giving as much as they could. This they did, entrusting their gifts to Barnabas and Saul to take to the elders of the church in Jerusalem.” (Acts 11:28–30, NLT)

HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD WITH GENEROSITY

1. I have to take my eyes off of my WORLD in order to see other’s WOUNDS.

*“Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. **BUT** they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.” (2 Corinthians 8:1–2, NLT)*

“It’s selfish and stupid to think only of yourself...” (Proverbs 18:1, CEV)

2. I have to see giving as a PRIVILEGE NOT A PROBLEM.

“For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem.” (2 Corinthians 8:3–4, NLT)

Three Types of Giving

- Systematic – TITHE.
- Sacrificial – OFFERING.
- Spontaneous – RELIEF.

3. I need to start with my HEART, not my wallet.

“They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.” (2 Corinthians 8:5, NLT)

“He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.” (2 Corinthians 5:15, NLT)

4. When I see suffering, I need to do more than just “**PRAY ABOUT IT.**”

“Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I **want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.** I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing **how genuine your love is** by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches. You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:7–9, NLT)

“For God so loved the world that he gave...” (John 3:16, NIV)

5. I need to practice the guidelines of **GOOD GIVING:**

God cares about **HOW** we give more than **WHAT** we give.

God wants me to give...

- **WILLINGLY.**

“Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it **eagerly.**” (2 Corinthians 8:12a, NLT)

- **PROPORTIONATELY.**

“Give **according to what you have,** not what you don’t have.” (2 Corinthians 8:12b, NLT)

- **EXEMPLARY.**

“I know how eager you are to give. And I have proudly told the Lord’s followers in Macedonia that you people in Achaia have been ready for a whole year. **Now your desire to give has made them want to give.**” (2 Corinthians 9:2, CEV)

- **GENEROUSLY.**

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever **sows generously** will also reap generously.” (2 Corinthians 9:6, NIV84)

- **PRAYERFULLY.**

“You must each **decide in your heart** how much to give.” (2 Corinthians 9:7, NLT)

- **CHEERFULLY.**

“God loves a person who **gives cheerfully.**” (2 Corinthians 9:7, NLT)

- **EXPECTANTLY.**

*“And God will generously **provide all you need**. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.” (2 Corinthians 9:8, NLT)*

- **COMPASSIONATELY.**

“As the scripture says: “[The godly] gives generously to the needy; his kindness lasts for ever.”” (2 Corinthians 9:9, GNB)

Results of Generosity

*“For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So **two good things will result from this ministry of giving**—the **needs** of the believers in Jerusalem **will be met**, and they will **joyfully express their thanks** to God. As a result of your ministry, they will **give glory to God**. For your generosity to them and to all believers will **prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ**. And **they will pray for you** with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. **Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!**” (2 Corinthians 9:10–15, NLT)*

- 1) Needs are **satisfied**.
- 2) Joy is **amplified**.
- 3) God is **glorified**.
- 4) The Gospel is **exemplified**.
- 5) Prayers are **multiplied**.
- 6) Praise will be **magnified!**

ACTION STEPS

Take 3RD Base.

Give to the Disaster Relief Fund | Member Care Fund.

Get info on the **Disaster Relief Rally** on March 18th.

Get info on ways to help Ukraine.

Get info about a summer mission trip to Macedonia!