



Title: Love on: Be Joyful - Give it Away!

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:7-11

Date: May 6, 2018

Bible Version: New Living Translation

The lure of ‘stuff’ is all around us and if we’re not careful it can control us.

Jesus discussed money more than heaven and hell combined.

Jesus often addressed money because there is a link between how we think about and handle money, and our spiritual life.

The number one thing competing for our heart is our ‘stuff’ (money).

BOTTOM LINE: When we give it breaks the hold that ‘stuff’ has on our life. It honors God, grows our faith, invests in eternity, and ultimately, we are blessed in return.

So, what does it mean to be generous?

Giving and being generous are two different things.

To be generous is to position your life around the delight of being used by God to make a difference.

Vs. 7

You must each decide in your heart how much to give.

Every Christian should be a giver.

God loves a person who gives cheerfully.

The Greek word for cheerful is hilaros, which is the root for our English word hilarious.

It is not difficult to suggest why God delights in the cheerful giver. He himself is such a giver, and desires to see this characteristic restored among those who were created in his image. (Kruse)

Vs. 8

God will generously provide all you need.

The emphasis is on giving first, and trusting God to generously provide for our needs.

God blesses us materially and spiritually so that we will have an abundance for every good work. We are blessed so that we can be a blessing to others. (Guzik)

Vs. 9

“...give generously...their good deeds will be remembered forever.”

When we give God is honored, people are thankful, and our generosity is remembered forever.

As Christ followers we are generous because God was first generous to us!

Vs. 10

For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat.

God gives us seed to sow. Everything we have is from God.

When we sow sparingly we reap sparingly, when we sow generously we get a generous return.

He will provide and increase your resources

God increases our resources not to produce great wealth, health, and happiness, but a harvest of generosity in you.

Vs. 11

Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous.

We are enriched in every way so that we can be generous and grow in our faith, not to fear and be anxious about our future.

Philippians 4:19

19 And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

Materially, we can trust that God will provide for the giving heart. The promises of Philippians 4:19 is made in the context of the generous hearts of the Philippians (Philippians 4:15-18). If we give to God, He will give to us materially. (Guzik)

As Christ followers we have a different mindset than the cycle of consume, lack, and worry.

God Supplies

The first thing we do is give

God multiplies it

Our faith grows and we develop a harvest of generosity

Why we Tithe

1. The tithe teaches us to put God first.

I believe there's a timeless truth behind giving God our first fruits. Still, I have mixed feelings about tithing because of the ways it is misused and misrepresented. I detest legalism...However, every New Testament example of giving goes beyond the tithe. None falls short of it. After all, Jesus raised the bar for His New Covenant people; He never lowered it (Matthew 5:27-28). (Randy Alcorn)

Proverbs 3:9 Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.

Matthew 6:33

33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

2. The tithe builds our faith.

Malachi 3:10

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

Only in God’s economy does this work. God promises that when we tithe he will meet our needs. Test and see if You can do more with 90% and God’s blessing, than you can by keeping 100% for yourself.

Many people with financial problems fail to do the most important thing first: obey and honor God with their resources. When we put God and His kingdom first, He promises to meet our other needs. (Guzik)

3. The tithe provides for the work of the kingdom.

Matthew 6:19-21

19 “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

I’m convinced that the greatest deterrent to giving is this: the illusion that earth is our home. (Randy Alcorn)

Parents & Kids

TAKE **HOME**

DATE: **May 6th, 2018**

Joseph Gives Grain to His Brothers (Genesis 42:3-28)

- 1.** In this week's part of the story of Joseph, the brothers of Joseph came to Egypt to buy food. What's your favorite food? If there was a famine where you live, what is one favorite food you would really hope didn't run out?!?
- 2.** Joseph sold his brothers some food for their family. What happened after the brothers left to go home? (they found their money back in the bags of grain)
- 3.** Did Joseph's brothers recognize him when they came to buy food? (no) This might have been Joseph's big chance to get revenge on his brothers for all the very mean things they did to him. How did Joseph treat his brothers? (he was kind)
- 4.** With God's help, Joseph was able to stay humble and treat his brothers kindly. How would you like to be kind in a humble way this week at home or at school?

Memory Verse: Micah 6:8 (The Lord has told you what is good. He has told you what He wants from you: to do what is right to other people, love being kind to others, and live humbly obeying your God)





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2 Corinthians 9:7-11

3D Guide

When we give it breaks the hold that 'stuff' has on our life.

DO.

It honors God, grows our faith, invests in eternity, and ultimately, we are blessed in return. Use the time that God has given you.



1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?

DISCUSS.



1. Why do you think the Bible mentions money so much?
2. Why do you think people struggle with worshiping God with a tithe?
3. "Giving is a tangible expression of our trust in God." Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why?
4. Read Malachi 3:6-12. How would you describe these people as givers? Compare the Lord's promises in Malachi to those in 2 Corinthians 9. Do you see anything in common?
5. Read Matthew 6:19-21 and reflect on this quote from the "The Treasure Principle" by Randy Alcorn.
"I'm convinced that the greatest deterrent to giving is this: the illusion that earth is our home"
Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why?

DO.



Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try a the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.