



Go for God!

“God Loves a Cheerful Giver”

2 Corinthians Chapter 9

- > Let us embrace four steps to a CHEERFUL GIVER:
- STEP 1 - (v1-2) OUR PERSPIRATION to GIVING!
 - STEP 2 - (v3-5) OUR PREPARATION for GIVING!
 - STEP 3 - (v6-11) OUR PARTICIPATION in GIVING!
 - STEP 4 - (v12-15) OUR PROCLAMATION through GIVING!

> STEP 1 - (v1-2) OUR PERSPIRATION to GIVING!

- After man sinned in the Garden of Eden God said to Adam, “By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:19)

- We are told in 1 Timothy 5:8 - *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

- Christians produce INSPIRED SWEAT for temporal and eternal blessings! - *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.* (Colossians 3:23-25)

- God has promised to PROVIDE for us (Matthew 6:25-34).

> STEP 2 - (v3-5) OUR PREPARATION for GIVING!

- Preparation begins in the HEART! Jesus said in Matthew 6:24 - *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”*

- Preparation brings REALIZATION! - Psalms 24:1 - *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it;* 1 Corinthians 4:7 - *And what do you have that you did not receive?*

- Job realized this principle when he said, *“Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”* (Job 1:21)

> STEP 3 - (v6-11) OUR PARTICIPATION in GIVING!

- What does the Bible teach about giving/tithing?

The first recorded instance of tithing in the Bible occurs in Genesis 14:17-20. After returning from rescuing Lot and defeating his enemies, Abraham met MELCHIZEDEK, the "king of Salem" and "priest of God Most High." The text states simply that Abraham gave Melchizedek a tithe of all the goods he had obtained in battle. The author of the Book of Hebrews, in recounting this episode, considered the Levitical priests who descended from Abraham and who appeared centuries later as having paid tithes to Melchizedek through Abraham (Hebrews 7:1-10). There is no recorded demand of Abraham for a tenth. Neither is an

explanation given about why Abraham gave a tithe to Melchizedek. Jacob also, long before the law of Moses, promised that he would give to the Lord a tenth of all he received (Genesis 28:22). The law of Moses prescribed tithing in some detail in Leviticus 27:30-32; Numbers 18:21-32; Deuteronomy 12:5-7,11-12,17-18.

- **In the New Testament the words tithe, and tithing appear eight times** (Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42; 18:12; Hebrews 7:5-6,8-9). All these passages refer to Old Testament usage and to current Jewish practice. Nowhere does the New Testament expressly command Christians to tithe. However, as believers we are to be generous in sharing our material possessions with the poor and for the support of Christian ministry. Christ Himself is our model in giving. **Giving is to be voluntary, willing, cheerful, and given in the light of our accountability to God.** Giving should be **systematic** and by no means limited to a tithe of our incomes (1 Corinthians 16:1-2 - *Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.*). We recognize that all we have is from God. We are called to be faithful stewards of all our possessions (Romans 14:12; 1 Corinthians 9:3-14; 16:1-3; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

> **Let us learn SEVEN DISCIPLINES OF CHRISTIAN GIVING:**

- Discipline #1 – **Learn to FEAR the LORD always!** - Deut. 14:22-23 - *"You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.*

- Discipline #2 - **Have FAITH in God!** – Malachi 3:8-12 - *"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts; and all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.*

Discipline #3 – **Be a HUMBLE GIVER!** - Matthew 6:1-4 - *"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*

- Discipline #4 – (v7a) **Christians to give PRAYFULLY!** – PRAYER brings purpose in his heart, life, and the KINGDOM OF GOD!

- Discipline #5 – (v7b) **Christians are to give CHEERFULLY!** (Warren Wiersbe writes, “We must not be “sad givers” who give grudgingly, or “mad givers” who give because we have to (“of necessity”); but we should be “glad givers” who cheerfully share what we have because we have experienced the grace of God.”) Jesus said, *‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’*” (Acts 20:35)

- Discipline #6 – (v8) Deposit God’s **R.O.I.** (return on investment) – His “*grace will abound toward us*” – we shall be “*sufficient in all things*” (Phil. 4:11) – we shall “*have an abundance for every good work.*”

- Discipline #7 – (v10-11) **Let God MULTIPLY!** – He provides the seed, we sow, and He brings in the **HARVEST OF SOULS!** - Isaiah 55:8-11 - *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."*)

- **BEWARE!** – Larry Burkett (founder of Christian Financial Concepts) writes, “Giving in the hope that you’ll receive two or three times as much is also a wrong attitude. Romans 11:35 says, “*Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again?*” If we give only to receive then we are no better than Simon, described in Acts 8, who offered money to the apostles in hopes of receiving spiritual power.” (I.e. – Jim Baker lesson – Beware of get rich quick schemes of fraudulent salvation.)

> **STEP 4 - (v12-15) OUR PROCLAMATION through GIVING!**

- We give because God gave us **HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT, HIS SON, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST!** (John 3:16). We give to proclaim the **GOSPEL** and to fulfill the **GREAT COMMISSION**, which produces others to proclaim **THANKSGIVING TO GOD**, to **GLORIFY HIM** and this causes others to **PRAYER** for US!