

# STRENGTH COMES THROUGH GIVING

Donald Townsley

## Introduction

1. Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 8:7; Heb. 13:16.
  2. Scriptural GIVING develops in us the traits of the DIVINE NATURE -- 2 Pet. 1:4.
    - a. When we make sacrifice for the Lord's work, we are developing the God-like traits of the Divine Nature – 2 Pet. 1:4; John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5: 14 – 15
    - b. The Lord's plan of raising money is a plan that "raises men" – 2 Cor. 8: 1- 5; 2 Cor. 9:7.
  3. With wealth comes the responsibility of using it right – I Tim. 6:17 – 19.
  4. It is as important that we spend our money in the right way as it is that we make it in the right way.
  5. A man's character is marked by the way he spends his money.
  6. Someone has well said, "What a young man makes in the day goes into his pockets; what he spends in the night goes into his character".
  7. God uses Giving to build us up and give us strength.
  8. Our Giving proves the sincerity of our love for the Lord and His cause – 2 Cor. 8: 8, 24.
- I. A FUNDAMENTAL LESSON WE ALL MUST LEARN IS OUR PROPER RELATIONSHIP TO MATERIAL WEALTH.**
- a. We were born into this world with NOTHING – I Tim. 6:7.
  - b. We can ACQUIRE NOTHING in this world WITHOUT God's help—Deut. 8: 17 – 18.
  - c. What we do ACQUIRE belongs to God and we are only STEWARDS – I Cor. 10:26; Psa. 24:1; I Cor. 4: 1- 2.
  - d. When we leave this world we will carry NOTHING with us – I Tim. 6:7; Eccl. 5:15.
    - i. He will leave it to some other man – Eccl. 2: 18 – 19.
    - ii. What one puts in the Kingdom lives on – I Tim. 6:19.

- e. We will give account to God for the way we have administered it while it is in our charge – Rom. 14:12; Matt. 25: 26 – 30; I Tim. 6: 17 – 19.
- f. It is not the accumulation of wealth that is sinful, but the misuse of that wealth after it is accumulated that is sinful – Luke 12: 16 – 21; Mk. 10: 17 – 22.
- g. There is a legitimate use to be made of our time and opportunities for the increase of our worldly possessions – Tit. 3:14; I Thess. 4:11 – 12; 2 Thess. 3: 10 -11; Prov. 23:21; Prov. 24: 30 – 34; Eph. 4: 28; I Tim. 5:8.
- h. The Bible teaches that when we have worked and made this increase it is to be used for:
  - i. The good of ourselves and family – I Tim. 5:8, 4, 16; I Thess. 4:12; Tit. 3:14.
  - ii. For the support of Government in taxes – Rom. 13:6 – 7.
  - iii. For the support of the Church in its mission – I Cor. 16: 1 – 21; I Cor. 9:11.
  - iv. For the good of those in need – Eph. 4:28; I John 3:17 – 18; James 1: 27.
- i. In Matt. 25: 26 – 27 the slothful servant is condemned because he neglected to use his Lord’s money that there might be an increase in interest.
  - i. When one properly uses the money God puts in one’s hands, he will receive his own with interest.
  - ii. Through the use of our money many souls are brought to God.
- j. The fatal mistake that many makes is to think they hold an absolute personal right to all they possess – Ex. 19:5; Psa. 50:10; Psa. 24:1.
- k. When Christians fail to use their wealth or money for the advancement of God’s cause they are unfruitful branches – John 15:1 – 8.
- l. We also need to understand that the money we give to the cause of Christ is not for God’s benefit, but for our benefit.
- m. When I Give this helps others to benefit from God’s Grace – I benefit and others benefit from my Giving.

## II. HOW NOT TO GIVE

- a. Not for vain-glory – “*to be seen of men*” – Matt. 6: 1 – 4.
- b. Not grudgingly – 2 Cor. 9:7.

- i. 2 Cor. 9:5 – “*not as of covetousness*”.
  - ii. Philemon 4 – “*without thy mind, I would do nothing*”.
  - iii. 2 Cor. 8:12
- c. Not Deceitfully – Ananias and Sapphira – Acts 5: 1 – 11.
- d. Not without LOVE – I Cor. 13:3.

### III. GUIDELINES FOR PROPER GIVING

- a. We should Give Liberally – Rom. 12: 8, 2 Cor. 8:2; 2 Cor. 9: 6; Luke 6:38.
- b. Sacrificially – Heb. 13:16; 6:10.
- c. Willingly; not of compulsion – 2 Cor. 9:7; 8:12.
- d. Joyfully – 2 Cor. 9:7.
  - i. It is not a pain to give, but a pleasure.
  - ii. It is a delight to give.
  - iii. We miss a most heavenly joy if we miss the gladness of Giving.
  - iv. “*God loveth a cheerful giver*” – 2 Cor. 9:7.
- e. Systematically – I Cor. 16:2.
- f. Purposefully – 2 Cor. 9:7.
  - i. We are to plan our Giving.
- g. One’s self is to be given first – 2 Cor. 8:5.

### IV. WHY MEN DO NOT GIVE LIBERALLY

- a. A lack of teaching on the subject:
  - i. Not many elders teach on the subject as they should.
  - ii. Bible class teachers do not teach on the subject as they should.
  - iii. Preachers are guilty of not doing enough—the preacher has to do most of the teaching on the subject.
  - iv. Parents don’t teach their children in word or example.
- b. Selfishness and Personal Pleasure
  - i. Often members spend more each week for personal pleasure than they give to the Lord’s work – 2 Tim. 3:4.

- c. False Pride and Extravagance:
  - i. Keeping up with the neighbors.
  - ii. Nothing left for God.
- d. Poor Management – the average man makes more than just a living – Eph. 4: 28.
- e. Stinginess and the love of money – I Tim. 6: 9 – 10.
- f. A lack of LOVE for God and Christ; we do not rob those we love – Eph. 5:25.

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