

HOW GOD WANTS US TO GIVE

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Introduction: All of us have received gifts at one time or other from different people and some gifts have more meaning than others, for example, gifts from children, hand made gifts, or gifts from someone who really couldn't afford to give that gift.

We also have given gifts and some of them were very personal, some extravagant, some sensible and some goofy, crazy, gifts meant to be a joke. Did you ever think that the a gift we have given to someone might label us as being cheap? Conservative? Outlandish? Ho-hum? Thoughtful?

With that in mind, that the kind of gift given describes the intent of the giver, let us think about God's gifts and our gifts.

I. GIFTS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN TO US

1. God has given to us His Son, Jesus Christ.
2. God has given to us the Holy Spirit.
3. God has given to us Eternal life.
4. God has given to us Grace.
5. God has given to us Forgiveness.
6. What do these gifts tell you about God's way of giving?

II. GOD HAS A CERTAIN ATTITUDE HE WANTS US TO HAVE WHEN WE GIVE

1. God wants us to give simply and generously. (*Romans 12:8*)
2. God doesn't want us to expect "praise" when we give. (*Matthew 6:1-3*)
3. God wants us to give freely whenever we are asked to give. (*Matthew 5:42*)
4. God wants us to give to others as He gives to us. (*Matthew 10:8*)
5. God doesn't want us to gripe and complain about giving. (*2 Corinthians 9:7*)
6. God wants us to give generously from the best that we have. (*2 Chronicles 31:5*)

III. GOD EXPECTS US AT TIMES TO GIVE BEYOND OUR ABILITY

1. *2 Corinthians 8:12; 8:3*
2. Every person is able to give something.
3. God has given every person something.
4. What God really wants to see in us is our WILLINGNESS to give beyond our ability.
5. Some people give everything they have.
6. Some people give only what they don't need.

IV. ONE'S ATTITUDE IN GIVING REVEALS HIS/HER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1. The TRUTH comes out when we give for our "generosity" reveals our being right with God or not.
2. We should give to others as we would give to Jesus.
3. What we give to others really is what God has already given to us.
4. Giving is actually trusting God to use us to help others. God is helping others through us.

CONCLUSION:

1. So, what kind of giver would you call yourself?
 - Generous?
 - Cautious?
 - Willing?
 - Forced?
 - Shamed?
 - Extravagant?
 - Cheap?
 - Faithful?
2. If giving reveals the kind of person one is, then what kind of person are you?
3. We will pray for someone, we will visit someone, we will bring someone to Church, but will we GIVE to someone, as God would?