

The Benefits of Giving

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“Now this I say that he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Giving benefits everyone. The Bible instructs us in how to give and it also encourages us declaring the benefits of giving. Maybe you have asked yourself the question, why is it better to give than to receive? In 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15 there are benefits declared to those who are charitable. Here are three reasons; it benefits others, it benefits you, and it glorifies God.

The Benefit to Others

There is no more practical way to express God’s love for someone than giving to them in a time of need. When you give without strings attached you reveal God’s grace to others. They experience His love in action. A person can endure many things in life when they are assured of the loving security of their heavenly Father.

When you supply the needs of the saints (v. 12) you are strengthening their faith in God. We are taught that “without faith it is impossible to please Him” (Hebrews 11:6). God can use us to strengthen the faith of other believers. When they become weak and discouraged because of need it is a time to open your heart and your pocket book and strengthen them. God uses us to demonstrate His ability and willingness to provide for His children. Faith produces a peace founded upon the sure hope in the security of a loving heavenly Father.

Charity strengthens faith and it also produces thanksgiving (v. 11-12). The gift of the Corinthians produced thanksgiving. Paul says that their ministry “overflowed through many thanksgivings to God.” Thanksgiving is a peculiar thing. It has a healing effect upon a troubled soul. It is the companion of faith and joy. You just cannot thank God and doubt Him at the same time. Joy accompanies thanksgiving as well. The experience of joy in times of deep sorrow and distress can be a reality for those who believe that God, the Giver of life and the Conqueror of death, is just and will deliver us through our times of trouble.

All this is to say that others will glorify God in our obedience to the confession of the gospel (v. 13). That is a great benefit to those who have come to understand that our chief end in life is to glorify God. What better way to fulfill our purpose than to multiply thanksgiving to the lips of others.

The Benefit to you

God loves a cheerful giver. Giving endears you to your Creator and Redeemer. It also effects what you receive. The principle of reaping what you sow was dealt with in the previous article. But grace abounds to those who sow liberally. The quantity that you sow will determine the quantity you reap. Paul says that one can sow sparingly or bountifully and it indicates that there is a sliding scale in between these two extremes. The promise is that God will supply abundantly to you in order that you may invest in other good deeds (v. 8). He will “supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righ-

teousness" (v. 10).

It enriches your life in other ways as well. A generous person is released from covetousness. He is not entangled in the pursuit of temporal things or ensnared with the desire for riches. Giving releases one from the grip of greed and readjusts our perspective to think in terms of the eternal. It frees us so that we maybe able to consider others. Idolatry and the love of money are far removed from the one who learns to give cheerfully.

It should also be said that giving enriches your relationships with others. Notice that those who had received a generous gift from the Corinthians were praying for their benefit (v. 14). They had a genuine concern for their spiritual health even though many of them had never met face to face. The Bible goes on to say that they yearned or longed after the Corinthians. The idea is that they intensely desired or craved relationship with them. What so many people long for they had because they had learned to give of themselves unselfishly. As a result genuine friendship and trust and other things that accompany righteousness were their experience.

The Benefit to God

Jesus taught that we are to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). This is a practical demonstration of glorifying God. Others were glorifying God through the Corinthians obedience and good works (v. 13) and their gifts had produced thanksgiving to Him in the lives of others. Generous givers reproduce good works by demonstrating to others how to produce thanksgiving in the lives of yet other people. It is the domino effect at work. It is the basic course that demonstrates how we bring praise to the glory of God.

Needless to say all of this activity pleases God. Our passage teaches that God loves a cheerful giver. The privilege of basking in His love is the experience of those who walk in righteousness. What pleasure it brings us when we please the One who created and redeemed us. As adopted children we desire to imitate our Father and we long to please Him. The One who gives life and breath and all good things is pleased when we imitate Him.

Conclusion

When you consider all the benefits of giving it is tempting to fall again into a self-centered quest to please God for our own gain. It should be said that salvation is by grace alone and no amount of giving can please Him, win His love, or earn our salvation. Giving falls short just as any other work of righteousness or any accumulated works of righteousness will when it comes to earning eternal life. Only the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ in our place can pay the just penalty for our sins. And this of course is the greatest gift of all. Giving this message should be associated with all charitable gifts. We imitate Jesus when we give sacrificially to others. May men see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.