

Principles and Rewards of Giving

Discussion Questions

1. How should unexpected global needs (like 9/11, the tsunami or Hurricane Katrina) affect your regular giving; specifically your giving to the local church?
2. Which category of Christian giving (i.e. time, talent or treasure) do you give from the most? Why? Which do you give from the least? What would it take to develop a more balanced approach to giving in your life?
3. In 2 Corinthians 8:3 it says that the Macedonians gave beyond their ability. If compared to the giving of the Macedonians, how does your giving measure up?
4. What do you think of Paul saying, in 2 Corinthians 8:8, that he wants to test the sincerity of the church in Corinth's love by comparing it to the earnestness of others, namely the Macedonians? Does this seem fair? Why or why not?
5. Concretely speaking, what does it mean to truly "give ourselves?"
6. Imagine that you, like the Christians in Jerusalem, are in dire financial straits. Now, imagine that your needs were met by someone who gave willingly and sacrificially from what they had. How would you feel about that gift? What would your response to that gift be? How would you use that gift? Contrast your answers to those questions with how you would answer them if the gift had been forcibly and unhappily given.
7. What excuses do we give God and others for not giving our "all" to ministries to which we have been called? How does 2 Corinthians 9:8-11 speak to those excuses?
8. Are we always able to readily see or identify the rewards and blessing God has given us in response to our giving? If so, how do we identify those blessings? If not, why not? What is stopping us from identifying God's blessings to us?
9. How does it make you feel to know your giving generates praise and thanksgiving to God? How does it influence your future giving, whether it be your time, talent or treasures?