

Living A Blessed Life

2 Keys Of Becoming A Giver

- * Giving in to the Kingdom is the most **tormenting** and **difficult** issue for many believers.

2 Corinthians 9 – Apostle Paul is receiving an offering for the church at Jerusalem.

At this moment though, the Church was going through a tremendously difficult time:

- Politically – government was **against** them
 - Economically – much of Jerusalem's prosperity was due to the Church and God blessing the people.
- There was a **culture shift** taking place toward the kingdom of God and the government didn't like it.
1. Notice though in the midst of the **offering**, the Holy Spirit is giving Paul words to write part of the New Testament.
 2. You also will notice giving in the Spirit changes the **culture** of the season.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

⁶But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

- Paul is trying to help them get over their objections to giving – he gives them two keys

Before I give you the 2 keys, let me give you two realities from what Paul said.

- You and I are the only people on earth that can fund **God's** work.
 - No church can reach its potential unless every person in the Church reaches their potential in **giving**.
 - This Church cannot reach its potential till you reach yours, in **giving**.
3. Most Christians never tithe which is the **minimal** level of obedience.

I made a statement this is tormenting so let me show you why:

2 Corinthians 9:7a

⁷So let each one give as he purposes in his heart...

Christians: I know you love the Lord. I also believe you **desire** to give.

4. Our greatest difficulty is we just cannot figure out in our head what our **heart** wants to do.

- * What are the 2 keys Paul gives to help their head to decide what their heart wants to do?

Goal – to get your head to match your **heart**.

5. The goal is to realize giving is not a shocking, grudging obligation, rather it is something you **live** to do and always excited about giving and be committed.

A. Understanding the **living** nature of money

2 Corinthians 9:6

⁶ But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

- This is sowing – sowing brings **alive** the kingdom of reaping.

Only 3 things you can do with money:

- **Spend** it
- **Save** it
- Or you can **give** it

6. If you give money, and you just see it as it is now **gone**, you will never be able to give like you should.

- When the Bible talks about giving money, to the Lord, it says “it’s like **seed**”

Luke 6:38

³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

7. Giving is a **living** instrument that when you sow it, it comes back to you good measure, pressed down, and running over according to your standard of giving.

The Bible says: God loves a cheerful giver because he understands giving is not losing, giving is **sowing**.

It's alive when you give it to God.

Here is a rhyme I gave you before:

- What you **consume** goes kaboom
 - Whatever you **keep** goes asleep
 - But, what you **give**, lives
8. The only living money you have is what you **gave** to God.
- * The key to meet your future needs is to plant your **present** seed.

God is committed to **providing** seed.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

¹⁰ Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, ¹¹ while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

Cause and effect – give and God gives you **more** seed

Proverbs 3:9-10

⁹ Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; ¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

- Give to the Lord (**cause**) you will receive an abundance (**effect**)

Malachi 3:10-12

¹⁰ 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.* ¹¹ "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; ¹² "And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land," says the Lord of hosts.

Cause and effect

If you come to Me and bring **all** the tithe to the storehouse, God will open windows and pour out a blessing)

9. The day you understand the **living** nature of money, it will change the way you give.

Here is the second key:

B. Understand the **loving** nature of God.

2 Corinthians 9:8a

⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you...

The word, able – dunatos – **powerfully capable**

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- God is **powerfully capable** to make all grace abound toward you and bless you when you give.

10. God doesn't depend on the economy or your boss at work, so don't **fear** anything.

Solomon asked for **wisdom**.

God gave him **money** to go along with it.

Malachi says I will make you a delightful land that people will look at you and say you are blessed.

Here is the point – people will want what you have and in reality, that is **Jesus** → Jesus loves you

Matthew 6 – He knows every hair on your head. He takes care of the sparrows → Why do you worry?

- Church: you are not an **orphan**.

Orphan spirit is an unhealthy need for things because of a lack of **relationships**.

You don't lack with God – so be **secure** God will never leave you.