

**Heart of Purpose  
Sunday  
December 12, 2021**  
by C. Benjamin Dill

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

7 **Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give;** not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

Today is Heart of Purpose Sunday here at Lighthouse Baptist Church.

No doubt some of you are thinking,  
“What on earth is ‘Heart of Purpose Sunday?’”

Today is the day that we members of Lighthouse stop and consider the command given to us in **II Corinthians 9:7**, as we make a conscious choice of what percentage we will give back to honor God of the income that God is going to bless us with during the coming year.

Some of you are wondering; “Where does this come from; I’ve never heard of doing this before? We didn’t do anything like this where I went to Church before.”

We didn’t do this where I went to Church before, either, and that Church, like many Churches, went from one financial crisis to another.

This is a command that was given to the Church in Corinth during a time that a special collection was being made up for a group of suffering Christians in another place.

Paul reminds them of a few well-known giving principles, and then commands them to choose what they will give.

The Lord Jesus has led us for many years now to obey this very command every year as a Church; so, thus we do.

Wise Christians don’t make 52 decisions a year as to whether they will come to Church or not.

If it is Sunday, we will be in Church! One decision, problem solved!

Tithing and giving should be the same way.

**Proverbs 3:9** Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

God tells us that we are to honor the Lord with the first and best of all He gives us.

And we are to do so on the first day of every week.

**1 Corinthians 16:2** Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him...

Honoring the Lord is not something we do on a special day once a year or on some special occasion.

Honoring the Lord with our substance is something we are to do every time God increases our substance!

The wisdom of the Lord is amazing.

Tithing and giving the way the Bible tells us to do it is:

Planned,  
Practical,  
Proportionate,  
Perpetual, on purpose; it's profitable and includes every member of the Body.

It is also very easy.

**Matthew 11:28-30**

**28** Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

**29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

**30** For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

Just like all the New Testament commands of the Lord, there is nothing hard or grievous about faithful giving.

**1 John 5:3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

So, this is what the Lord has led us to do. The command is easy enough to see, as is God's wisdom behind it.

So, you can relax. I am not going to purposely send you on a guilt trip or ambush you; on the contrary; I want, as I believe does the Lord; this day to be a day of rejoicing in what our Lord is about to do in the financial lives of all of us!

Today's message, as was Paul's command in II Corinthians 9:7, is primarily for the members of the Church.

If you are a member here at Lighthouse, I'm pretty sure you already believe in tithing and in giving, so I'm not going to spend our time today convincing you to do what you already know you should.

Instead, I want to give you some reminders from Scripture that I hope will help you do it better.

So begins our instruction from the Lord today:

## **I. First, the Purpose.**

*A. What does the statement "purposeth in his heart" actually mean?*

1. This is a really long, hard to pronounce Greek word that means "to choose for oneself".
2. This is not an ordinary choice, like what you are going to have for lunch; this is a choice made from the heart, like the kind you made when you trusted Jesus to save you.

3. Remember

**Romans 10:10** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness...

*B. Choosing what percentage of your income you will give to the Lord to honor Him is something you do on purpose.*

1. So what is your purpose this morning?
2. With some, their purpose is to get all they can and can all they get and keep all they can?
3. Our purpose is to honor the Lord and bring Him glory?
4. By nature we are very selfish and all about ourselves.
5. Our new born again spirit is all about Jesus and thus the battle between our selfish flesh and our righteous spirit rages on.
6. The question today is which is going to win and the degree of that victory.

Secondly:

**II. There are many Biblical principles that should govern the decision you make today:** I have chosen a few to remind you of:

*A. Principle #1; It is better to give than to receive.*

1. Surely you believe what Jesus plainly tells you, right?
2. **Acts 20:35** I have showed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, **It is more blessed to give than to receive.**

*B. Principle #2; Giving, as well as tithing, is not about money; it is about honor.*

1. Notice our text verse; there is an important principle right there in the middle:
2. **2 Corinthians 9:7** Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity:* for God loveth a cheerful giver.
3. Not of necessity! Let me remind you that God does not need our money.
4. Oh, I could play the TV preacher game and talk about this need and that need and show you pictures of starving orphans and multitudes in poverty that need the gospel and play your heart strings to get you to “write that check today”.
5. Tithing and giving is to be done to honor the Lord, not out of duty, not out of guilt, not because of need; but rather simply because we love Him and want to honor Him.
6. **Malachi 1:6** A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master: if then I *be* a father, where *is* mine honour?

*C. Principle #3; God honors those who honor Him.*

1. **1 Samuel 2:30** Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed *that* thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me forever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; **for them that honor me I will honor**, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.
2. So how does that work? A few of you will not faithfully tithe or give this coming year. (I would love to be wrong about this.)
3. What will make up for your part in the work of God here that you refused to contribute?
4. It is very simple; God will raise up others who will cheerfully do over and above their part and thus will make up the slack for you.

5. He will also bless them with a great over-abundance that could have and should have been yours.

6. I am OK with that; especially since I get to be one of those God uses to make up the slack.

7. If you are paying attention, you would notice that some of your fellow brothers and sisters live like there is an open window from heaven right over their heads... and now you know why.

*D. Principle #4; The tithe (first tenth) is the Lord's; it does not belong to you.*

1. **Leviticus 27:30** And all the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, **is the LORD's: it is holy unto the LORD.**

This is why in Malachi the Bible says that **it is robbing God for you to keep it for yourself.**

2. Tithing was instituted from the beginning; the Bible records it being practiced before Moses and the law.

3. Tithing was commanded and practiced under the law, as we just read.

4. Tithing was commended by Jesus in the New Testament and has been practiced by true Churches in all ages, from Jesus and the Apostles down to this day.

5. **Proverbs 3:9** Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

6. The tithe is the firstfruits; this is why it is important that you set aside God's tithe first, before other things.

7. Since tithing is about honor not money; this makes perfect sense.

*E. Principle #5; Giving should be done cheerfully with gladness and with joy.*

1. **2 Corinthians 9:7** ...for God loveth a cheerful giver.

2. If you cannot give cheerfully with gladness; you might as well not give at all.

3. Better yet, why don't you just give at a level you can be cheerful about!

4. The tithe belongs to God, but the giving is for you to choose.

5. Years ago when Lisa and I first started adding a percentage of our income to our tithe, we started out with a meager 2%...but we did it faithfully.

6. After seeing what God did in our finances that year, the next year we raised it...and the next we raised it again and the next year again.

7. Tithing is one thing; it is God's and you are robbing God if you keep it.

8. Giving is and must be your personal choice. There can be no honor any other way.

**In Conclusion: Yes, I want you to be faithful tithers and generous givers.**

**I want you to be faithful tithers and generous givers because I love you and I want to see you blessed.**

**We no longer need to prove that; we have invested our very lives in you and continue to do so.**

**If you are one of those here today who is not yet a Christian; the Devil would have you to believe that 'if you trust Jesus to save you, you will have to give a lot of money to the Church, you will have to give up all your fun; you can't do this and you can't do that; getting saved will just take all the joy out of your life'.**

**Nothing could be further from the truth! Let me tell you how it really works. When Jesus saves you, He will set you free. You will be free for the first time in your life.**

**Being free, you do not have to do or not do anything; including serve sin the way you are doing right now!**

**What we Christians do, we do by choice; out of love and not out of fear or guilt. I choose to live a different life because it is a better life.**

**I choose to give because Jesus first gives to me and it is a joy to do it.**

**Jesus did not take away the fun; that, (by the way), only came in little tiny bits between the long stretches of misery anyway; He gave me joy instead that never leaves me because He never leaves me.**

**God tells us to choose what we will give and do it on purpose.**

**Kind of like what He did on purpose when He went to the cross and paid for my sin.**

**Explain the card.**