

Heart of Purpose for 2024

Introduction

Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God? Happy to hear. I have good news for you. Today's message is regarding something that you can actually succeed at. Something that the Lord tells us to do it and it's simple as just do it. You can even testify to years and years of success without falter. Some fight it, others do it happily and watch the Lord work in their life tremendously. If you haven't guessed what it is, today we're going to be talking about giving. **(Now show slide)** Heart of purpose Sunday is here and it's my honor to preach it for the first time. If you thought Pastor Dill was the only one for preaching on giving, you thought wrong. This subject is crucial for each everyone of God's kids. The reason is not because God is need of our money, but that we need to be givers. Furthermore, not just a giver but as we see described in the Bible as a cheerful giver. Our main text for this morning is found from 2 Corinthians 9:1-15, the whole chapter.

Scripture

2 Corinthians 9:1-15 (1) For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you: (2) For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many. (3) Yet have I sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this behalf; that, as I said, ye may be ready: (4) Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting. (5) Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness. (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: (9) (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad;

he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. (10) Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) (11) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. (12) For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; (13) Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; (14) And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. (15) Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

To break down the chapter a little: The context is regarding the Corinthian churches giving. From the previous chapter, the churches of Macedonia are mentioned that gives beyond what it can afford even in great affliction. The Corinthians were ones that inspired and boasted upon as givers and they were exhorted to finish what they had started. In the same context, Paul writes this to them:

2 Corinthians 8:24 "Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf."

Moving into chapter 9, Paul continues into giving. Their commitment to giving will serve as proof of their love.

I. Readiness and Willingness to Give, vv. 1-5

A. The "Ministering" to the saints, v. 1-2.

(1) For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you: (2) For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many.

1. The ministering was regarding giving the Corinthians committed to for Christians in Jerusalem.
2. They'd already be familiar with Paul was talking about which is why we see the word superfluous.

3. Paul's desire was for them to finish what they started.
4. He was confident in their willingness and is giving them the opportunity to prove their love.

B. The purpose of the brethren sent to them, vv. 3-5.

(3) Yet have I sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this behalf; that, as I said, ye may be ready: (4) Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting. (5) Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.

1. The brethren being Titus and other unnamed ones are sent by Paul to Corinth to collect.
2. This holds them accountable.
3. They were already a boasting matter and motivated other churches to give generously.
4. For them to not come through would not only make themselves look bad, it would even make Paul look bad.
5. They also would be there for assurance it was done out of generosity and in love not covetousness.

II. The right motive and reward of giving, v. 6-15.

A. One reaps what they sow, v. 6.

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

1. Using a farmer related analogy, reaping what you sow. Sow little, the harvest will be little. Sow bountifully and generously, expect a greater harvest.

2. Proportionate giving is what is the key of this. The widow giving just two mites gave more than everyone around her.

B. God loves a cheerful giver, v. 7.

(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.

1. You purpose in your heart what you're going to give. The motive must not be grudgingly or of necessity. You must want to do it; it must be out of love for the Lord.
 - a. If you can't get this part down, don't expect God to work.
 - b. If your motivation is to give to receive, you've already missed it.
2. We get excited when we give gifts to our kids in others, why would we not get excited when we give back to God as He blesses us?
3. God loves a cheerful giver. Yes, it's true God loves everyone and proof of that is God giving us His only begotten Son, but there's a special thing God has for the "cheerful" giver.
 - a. The Greek Word "Hilaros" is where we get our English word "Hilarious." Used only here in the Bible.
 - b. There is a true joy and excitement in it. Let God's grace be your motivation.
4. Giving is always done according to how we are prospered.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (1) Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. (2) Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

C. God's part in it, vv. 8-11.

(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: (9) (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. (10) Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) (11) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

1. God is able... Because of who are God is, expect God to work in your life when you cheerfully and generously give.
2. Paul assures them they will have all sufficiency in all things. There was no need to question if their needs would be met. He supplies the ability to give and more.
3. Paul then quotes from Psalm 112:9. The start of that Psalm chapter is this:
Praise ye the Lord, Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD.
4. He provides the seed; he provides the bread; you can trust God to meet and honor your finances if you will honor him with yours.

D. The effects, vv. 12-15

(12) For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; (13) Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; (14) And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. (15) Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

1. It provides the needs of the saints.
 - a. This is an exciting thing, you get to be a part of God's work.
 - b. As I said earlier, God doesn't need your money to work, He'll raise up rocks if it meant so, but why ever let it come to that?

2. It produces thanksgiving unto God for both the recipients and giver.

Further teaching.

To backtrack, before applying 2 Corinthians 9. This first needs to come. Giving starts with the tithe. Tithing in itself isn't giving, but it's the foundation to it. It means 10th. How to do it is simple. If you made 1000 that week, divide it by 10 and you get 100. If you made 0 in the week, what is your tithe? The first instance of tithing is with Abraham to Melchizedek.

Genesis 14:18-20. (18) And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. (19) And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: (20) And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

We first see it practiced before the law, instituted under the law, and then commended by Jesus. Many today seem to have the idea that because it's under the law and since we've been redeemed from the law hence tithing isn't today. However, in the OT, doesn't equal under the law or exclusive to the law.

Hebrews 7:1-10 (1) For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; (2) To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; (3) Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. (4) Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. (5) And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham: (6) But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. (7) And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. (8) And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. (9) And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. (10) For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

Christ is described in Hebrews as our great High Priest, one whose order is not from Levites but after Melchizedek's. The King and Priest of Salem (whom we see as a Christophany in the OT). His priesthood continued on.

(15) And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, (16) Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. (17) For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Just as Abraham gave tithes to an everlasting priesthood not under the law, we too today tithe to our everlasting priesthood, Jesus.

Things you need to know about tithing:

1. Tithing is about honor:

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

(Extemporaneous speaking on how to do it and the expectations).

2. It already belongs to the Lord.

Leviticus 27:30 And all the tithes 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.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

3. To not tithe is to rob God.

Malachi 3:8-10 (8) Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. (9) Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

4. Tithing is the only context in which God invites people to test/prove Him.

Malachi 3:10-11 (10) Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (11) And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he

shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

5. It is something you can do it without fail or continued repentance.

Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Jesus wasn't calling it unimportant. The Pharisees and scribes did right in their tithes but left the "Barus" more burdensome matters of the law undone. Both are to be done.

Conclusion/Application:

Giving truly is one the most blessed things we can do and even relate with God. He gave something priceless. I can't say that I've always been good at following commands such being quick to forgive, controlling my tongue, participating in gossip, but this thing I've been able to keep the first time I did it and when I got job, it's continued for nearly 14 years now. If you look at my financial track record, you're not going to find a huge sum of money, but you will find the Lord's sustainment and faithfulness. I'm 29 now soon to be 30 and Lord willing I have a lot of years of this to come. It has taught me to value money and lead to many understandings of money. It has taught me thankfulness, it not only reflected thankfulness, but it was also producing thanksgivings. It has also taught me to trust God more and more. So, what's your heart's purpose? Some have argued that they can't afford to tithe and give and that those are well off are the ones who can do it. Well, as one of God's kids. The truth is you can't afford to not tithe. And how do you think the ones who are "well off" got there? Are you tithing and giving because you're well off or are you well off because you're faithful in tithing and giving? God will honor those who honor Him.

Prayer