

# **RADICAL GIVING**

**(The Kind Of Giving That Pleases The Lord)**

**II Corinthians 8:1 – 9:8**



## **GIVING IS LIKE...**

- ◆ Sowing Seed and
- ◆ Opening A Window

***“God loveth a cheerful giver.” (II Corinthians 9:7)***

**Bill Kirk**

# “RADICAL GIVING”

**TEXT:** II Corinthians 8:1-9/9:1-9

**SUBJECT:** Characteristics of Radical New Testament Givers

**Question:** Is Giving A Biblical Subject?

- *“Give and it shall be given unto you.”* (Luke 6:38)
- *“Give generously, and your gifts will return to you later on.”* (Ecclesiastes 11:1)
- *“Happy is the one who gives to the needy.”* (Proverbs 22:9)
- *“He that sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”* (II Corinthians 9:6)
- *“Whatever someone sows, that will they also reap.”* (Galatians 6:7)
- *“Honor the Lord with thy substance and with the first-fruits of all thine increase (or income) and the Lord will fill your barns with plenty.”* (Proverbs 3:9,10)
- *“He that earns wages (and doesn’t include the Lord) puts them into a bag full of holes.”* (Haggai 1:6)
- *“Bring all the tithes and offerings into the storehouse and prove Me says the Lord, for I will open you the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing, and there shall not be room enough to receive it.”* (Malachi 3:10)

**Question:** Did people give radically in the Bible?

- During building programs people sacrificed.
- During an offering, a woman gave her last two coins.
- During a lunch meal, a boy gave his bread and fish away.
- During church growth, people sold land and brought the money in.
- During Passover week, Mary broke her alabaster box (one year’s wages).

## What About Our Text?

- Paul is writing to the Corinthians believers.
- The Corinthians had promised a love offering for the impoverished saints in Jerusalem.
- A year had gone by so Paul reminds them to keep their commitment.
- Paul wants the offering to strengthen all the churches (as the Gentiles give to the Jewish congregations across the sea).
- So Paul uses the Macedonian churches as an example of how to give the radical (Biblical) way without flesh, flash, frills, carnality, deception, manipulation, intimidation or pressure.

## 1. Radical Giving Begins In The “Heart”!

**Question:** How do we know that Radical Giving is a heart issue?

**Answer:** By the way the believers responded:

(In V. 1) The grace of God was motivating believers.

(In V. 2) The giving believers were in deep poverty (or rock bottom destitution).

- ◆ Some had lost their jobs.
- ◆ Some were banned from the trade guilds for not bowing down to idols.
- ◆ These believers here were giving in spite of their trials, poverty and afflictions. (In fact)

(V. 4) “**Beyond their ability**” means they gave and refused to allow their circumstances to hinder them. (No excuses even in poverty).

◆ They were so eager to give that they begged Paul to receive their offering.

(V. 4) “**Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift.**”

◆ There was no pressure, pleading or manipulation, guilt, telemarketing or sales pitch.

◆ There was only an eagerness to meet a need because God’s grace was at work.

(V. 5) “And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord.”

### (In Other Words)

◆ The believers here – surrendered themselves to the Lord first, before giving.

◆ (V.5) Means that the believers used the occasion of the offering to rededicate their lives, hearts and possessions to the Lord. (Why?)

1. They surrendered their heart and possessions to God.

2. They surrendered their will to God to help Paul minister to people in need.

◆ This is God’s way to reach our city.

1. I surrender all to you Lord (all I possess).

2. I surrender all my energy to give to reach people who need the Lord.

## 2. Radical Giving Understand God’s “Grace”!

**Question:** What do spiritually healthy givers understand?

**Answer:** (V. 9) We understand the example of Jesus (V. 9)

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor that ye through His poverty might be rich.”

**Question:** What do we understand?

**Answer:** We understand **true spiritual motivation!**

In V. 7 Paul tells about spiritual gifts in order.

In V. 8 Paul tells them, I’m not ordering you.

In V. 9 Paul tells us, just look at Jesus and understand what He’s done for you.

**Question:** Why look at Jesus becoming poor on my behalf?

**Answer:** Because when we really see what we’ve been given by God, it just isn’t hard to give back to God!

### (In Other Words)

◆ If Jesus sacrificed to save me eternally, then I can sacrifice something temporally!

(V. 9) “For you know the grace of our Lord.” (And remember) the Lord gave to us when we were poor (in sin) and we didn’t deserve it.

## 3. Radical Giving Is A Matter Of “Faith” Not Income!

II Corinthians 8:15: “As it is written, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that had gathered little had no lack.”

- ◆ This is a reference to the miracle of manna in Exodus 16:18.
- ◆ No matter how much manna the Jews gathered each day, there was always enough to supply the need.
- ◆ Israel was taught 3 lessons by God:
  1. Gather what you need!
  2. Share what you can! (And)
  3. Don't try to hoard it up or else it rots!

**(What's The Lesson?)**

- ◆ God will see to it that you will never lack if you believe His Word!

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ If God took care of Israel in the Old Testament that guarantees that will take care of you in the New Testament.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ It takes faith to believe that God will honor His Word.
- ◆ It takes faith to share what you have with those in need.
- ◆ It takes faith to give – and believe that God will take care of you.
- ◆ It takes faith to sow seed – instead of keep it to yourself.

**(In Fact)**

(II Corinthians 9:6) “But this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”

- ◆ Paul tells us here that spiritual people know the law of the farmer.

**Question:** What is the law of the farmer?

**Answer:** We reap in measure to what we sow! **(In other words)**

- ◆ As the farmer who sows bountifully will reap a bigger harvest in the field.
- ◆ So the believer who sows in the work of the Lord will reap a bigger harvest both here on earth and later in heaven. **(In other words)**
- ◆ Our motive is love, but our reward is **in proportion to our faithfulness!**
- ◆ The **sower determines** the size of the harvest.
- ◆ The sower has faith that his seed will multiply.
- ◆ The sower believes that God gets involved and will prove Himself.

#### 4. Radical Giving Carries The Fragrance of Deep “Joy”

**Question:** What's the fragrance of Radical Giving? (2 Cor. 9:7)

“Every one gives as they decide in their heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

**Question:** What does it mean to give grudgingly and of necessity?

**Answer:** It means to give because we have to, of necessity, out of duty, reluctantly.

**Question:** What does it mean to give **cheerfully**?

**Answer:** The Greek word for “cheerful” here is (HILARON) which gives us our English word “hilarious”.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Cheerful giving loves to give because it understands what God has given.
- ◆ Cheerful giving loves to give because it wants others to find what it has found in Jesus.

**Question:** How many of you are glad that your giving results in lost people being rescued?

**Question:** How many of you give with a smile - because you can help somebody?

**Question:** How many of you know that givers are happier than takers?

**5. Radical Giving Reveals A Spirit of Heartfelt “Gratitude”**

**Question:** What motivates Radical Givers and Radical Giving?

**Answer:** II Corinthians 9:15 “**Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.**”

- ◆ This is gratitude for God sending His Son.
- ◆ This is gratitude for His Son dying for my sins.
- ◆ This is gratitude for God allowing me to participate in His great work.
- ◆ This is gratitude for His life, His Word, His church, His sanctuary, His everything!!!

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Our giving testifies to all of our city that we are grateful to God for His greatest gift – Jesus!

**(We Testify That...)**

1. Everything in life belongs to God. (Psalm 24)
2. Obedience gains more than disobedience takes back. (Malachi 2)
3. Gratitude in giving is a sign that our faith is active in the God who keeps His Word.

**Grateful People Love The Tithes And Offerings!**

1. The tithe is **mathematically** a tenth. (Genesis 28:22)  
“I will surely give the tenth unto thee.”
2. The tithe is **scripturally** a command. (Deuteronomy 14:22)  
“Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase.”
3. The tithe is **spiritually** a blessing. (Malachi 3:10)  
“I will open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing.”
4. The tithe is **emotionally** a joy. (Acts 20:35)  
“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

**Remember Saints:**

- ◆ We don’t buy God’s blessing with our money (but)
- ◆ We gain God’s blessings through our obedience!

**Question:** What is the “root cause” or motivation of a Radical Giver?

**Answer:** Gratitude, gratefulness, thankfulness!

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ The degree of our gratitude is the degree of our generosity.

**Question:** What is Paul doing here?

**Answer:** He brings Jesus' salvation into our giving patterns.

- ◆ He reminds us of the Gospel.
- ◆ He tells us to think of the costly grace at the cross.
- ◆ He says, meditate and ponder on what Jesus did – until it changes our hearts into generous hearts.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Radical Givers are Radical Givers because they discover how generous Christ is to us all! (or)
- ◆ Radical Giving is a byproduct of a “**grace filled**” heart (or)
- ◆ Radical Giving comes from a gospel centered heart!

(The Results?)

1. I don't have to worry about money!
2. The cross proves that God will take care of me!
3. I don't have to envy anyone else's possessions!
4. I can be content with a giving heart!

(Why?)

- ◆ (9:15) “**Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.**”

Nuf Sed!  
Bill Kirk