

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

Prov. 11:24-25

I. WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE SPIRIT OF GIVING OR LIBERALITY?

- A. Frame of mind, disposition, mood
- B. Real meaning; true intention; a prevailing tendency or attitude

II. WHY DO WE HESITATE TO PREACH FINANCES?

- A. Finances one of major problems in individual's life
- B. If sick, we teach healing
- C. If hurting financially, we should teach prosperity

III. MONEY NOT ALWAYS THE SOLUTION

- A. Just handing money to people indiscriminantly does not help
 - 1. There should be proper instruction
- B. Why do we get in a bind?
 - 1. Outgo exceeds income
 - 2. Wrong priorities
 - 3. Emergencies
 - 4. Poor management
 - 5. Curse upon our lives because of disobedience to the Word of God
 - 6. We allow Satan to steal our goods

IV. WHY DO WE SPECIFICALLY TEACH GIVING?

- A. God's plan and method for our return
 - 1. Means of sowing
 - 2. Give and it shall be given you
- B. More importantly, it is the nature of God to give
 - 1. Opposite of selfishness
 - 2. Opposite of greed and covetousness

V. WHY DO WE GIVE AND NOT RECEIVE?

- A. Knowledge, obedience, confession
- B. Our attitude toward giving
 - 1. Wrong motives
 - 2. Give expecting nothing in return
 - 3. More blessed to give than to receive
 - 4. Where your treasure is there your heart will be also
 - 5. Sometimes we force ourselves to do something against our will or nature

VI. HOW ARE WE TO GIVE?

- A. Freely you have received, freely give
- B. II Cor. 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."

VII. HOW MUCH ARE WE TO GIVE?

A. The tithe is holy--belongs to the Lord; for the business of God

B. Offerings

1. Freewill offerings to build the house of the Lord

2. Offerings for the storehouse of the Lord

C. Alms giving

1. Eph. 4:28 - *"Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."*

2. Luke 11:41 - *"Give alms of such as ye have."*

D. Ministering to the saints

1. I Co. 16:1-2 - *"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.*

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."

2. *"As touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you: 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. 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: 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. 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. But this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." (II Co. 9:1-7)*

3. II Co. 8:11-15 - *"Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want; that there may be equality: As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack."*

VIII. GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS WORD