

Lecture 10

Financing World Missions- #2

THE EXHORTATION TO THE CHURCH AT CORINTH

Turn in your Bible to II Corinthians 8:7-15

In these verses Paul turns to the Church at Corinth and instructs them concerning their giving to missions.

Notice in these verses three reasons Paul gives as to why the Corinthian believers should give to missions.

In verse 7 he commends the saints at Corinth for several good things they were doing and then he instructs them to **“see that ye abound in this grace also.”**

What he really is saying to the Corinthians is, You have a great church that abounds in many areas, but you are weak in your giving to missions. Work on this so that you abound in this grace also.

*****WE ARE TO GIVE TO PROVE THE SINCERITY OF OUR LOVE, Vs 8c**

The first reason for giving to missions in the last part of verse 8 is, *“to prove the sincerity of your love.”* It is easy to say that I love missions and Missionaries, but talk is cheap.

Note:

I am thankful that God said He loved me, but I am more thankful that He proved His love by giving His Son to die for me that I might be saved.

Someone has said, “You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.” Missionaries cannot live on our *“God bless you, we love you...”* It takes money. It is sad to say, but many Churches today have more emphasis about missions on their Church sign than in their Church services.

***** WE ARE TO GIVE TO PRACTICE REAL CHRISTLIKENESS- Vs 9**

The second reason Paul gives for giving to missions is *“to practice real Christlikeness.”* In verse 9 we read, *“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.”*

In this verse we see that Christ willingly gave it up what He had so that those who did not have it might receive it freely. We do not have to die as Christ did that sinners might be saved. Nobody would be saved through our dying.

We do have the gospel. The world does not have it.

We have the money to get the gospel to those who do not have it.

Our responsibility is not to die for sinners; our responsibility is to get the Gospel of Christ to them that they might be saved.

Imagine what it will be like spending eternity with someone in Heaven who is there because you gave money so that the Missionary could carry the gospel to him.

***** WE ARE TO GIVE TO PREVENT INEQUALITY, I Corinthians 8:13-15**
13 For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened:
14 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:

Is it right for Christians in America to live in luxury while Missionaries around the world live in poverty? Of course, the answer is NO. God has an unbreakable law. If we help others in their time of need, God will have someone there to help us in our time of need.

That same love that caused God to give His Son will cause us to give our sons and daughters and our money that those who do not have the gospel may hear it and be saved by the Grace of God.

I. THE PRACTICE OF FAITH-PROMISE GIVING

Now we will look at some things that the Bible teaches about faith promise giving. Faith-promise giving is simply giving by faith. It is not how much you can give, but how much you can trust God to give through you.

In II Corinthians 8:10, we read.

“And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago.” Here we see a mission need was presented to the Church at Corinth and they responded in two ways.

A. First, they did something immediately about that need.
In plain language, they received an offering.

B. Then, they were also forward. This means they made a commitment by faith that they would give something for this need throughout the next year. This was a faith promise commitment.

Notice in verse 11, **“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.**

In this verse Paul writes a year later and reminds the saints at Corinth of the commitment they made and encourages them to give it out of what they have.

Paul is reminding the saints at Corinth they promised God that they would give this mission offering. God has supplied the means, so now Paul says, do what you said you would do. Give it **“out of that which ye have.”**

One of the greatest examples of faith-promise giving in the Word of God is in I Samuel

1:11. Watch Hannah as she makes a faith promise commitment to the Lord.

I Samuel 1:11

11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

Here we see Hannah praying and making a faith promise commitment to God. She is literally saying, “God, if you will give to me a man child, I will him back to you.”

We learn later on in that same chapter that God gave her the son she asked for, and that Hannah then gave him back to God as she promised. God honored Hannah’s giving Samuel to Him by His giving to her five more children. God always honors faith promise giving by giving back more than you give to Him.

Do you think God would let you out give Him, or let it be told that you gave to Him and He did not give back to you? I don’t think so.

III. THE PARABLE OF FAITH-PROMISE GIVING

The Bible compares faith-promise giving to the law of the harvest, the law of sowing and receiving. Notice God’s law of sowing and reaping found in **Gal. 6:7-9**:

7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

We read in **II Corinthians 9:6** we read.

“He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”

There are four principles in God’s Law of sowing and reaping.

1. You reap *what you sow*
2. You reap _____
3. You reap *more than you sow*
4. You reap _____

We have all heard messages preached on the first half of Galatians 6:8, **“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption.”** But I have never heard one preacher preach on the last half of this verse, **“but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”**

This verse teaches us there are two seed, two sowings, two soils, and two substances. We have the choice of sowing to the Spirit and of the Spirit reap life everlasting. This does not mean that our sowing shall save us, but that someone else will be saved by our sowing.

IV. THE PRINCIPLES OF FAITH PROMISE GIVING

In II Corinthians 9:7-8 God gives the principles of faith promise giving. Notice these verses. *“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 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.”*

As we look into these verses we discover five principles of faith promise giving are taught here.

1. **“Every man...”** This teaches us that faith promise giving is to be *Personal Giving*. It is personal in the sense that God will only tell you what He wants you to give.

2. **“According as he purposeth in his heart...”** This teaches us that faith-promise giving is to be *Planned Giving*. Once you have asked the Lord what He wants you to give and He tells you; settle it in your heart that this is Gods will for you, and you are going to do it because God told you to.

The faith promise commitment is not to be based upon emotions or excitement. If you base your faith promise upon emotions or excitement, when the emotions and excitement dies down what happens? _____

If you make a faith promise commitment because God told you to, that commitment will be real months on down the road. So the phrase **“According as he purposeth in his heart...”** simply means that you settle in your heart that this is what God wants you to give and that you are going to give it for the glory of God.

3. **“So let him give...”** Here we see that faith-promise giving is to be _____ . We do not make our faith promise commitment give it for six weeks, and then skip the next two. We must be consistent in our giving. It is not enough to promise that we will give; we must bring the money in. The Church cannot support the missionaries with our promises; it must have our money also. Missionaries cannot live on “*God Bless you, I love you.*” We must be faithful to bring the money that we have promised.

4. **“Not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”** Here we see that faith promise giving is to be _____ .

When we find something that God loves, we should do a lot of it. Our Lord said in, Acts 20:35, **“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”** Why is it that offering time is usually the quietest time in our Church services? The word **cheerful** comes from the same root word as the word *hilarious*.

Why then are we not hilarious givers? _____ .
This verse does not teach that if one cannot give cheerfully they are not to give at all.

What happens one gives but does not give cheerfully?
_____ .
Your attitude does not affect the dollar value when the Missionary spends the money.

WHO IS BLESSED BY CONSISTENT MISSIONS GIVING?

- 1-The truth is, you will be blessed in a special way if you give cheerfully.
- 2-The Church will be blessed because it has the money to support the Missionaries.
- 3-The Missionaries will be blessed because they can get to the field and do the job God has called them to do.
- 4-The sinner will be blessed because he can hear the Gospel and be saved, and God will be blessed because His work goes on.
God loves a cheerful giver, but He does not excuse you from giving at all just because you cannot give cheerfully.

5. **“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.”**
Here we see that faith promise giving is to be _____ .

You will notice the word *all* appears four times in this verse. *All* covers *all grace, always, all sufficiency, and all things*. Do you think God would let you out give Him? Do you think God would let it be told that you gave to Him and He did not give back to you? As we give by faith we simply open the door of opportunity for God to prove that He will take care of our needs as we take care of the needs of His Missionaries.

This principle is taught plainly in **Philippians 4:14-19**.

14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God.

19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Leave verse 19 in its context; context is important in the matter of interpreting Scripture. In these verses the Church at Philippi had created a need in their life by giving to the missionary work of Paul. It is only when we give to missions and Christian workers that we can claim the promise of this verse.

A. Give Expectantly

In II Corinthians 9:6 and 8, we also learn that we are to give *expectantly*. We have seen that we reap what we sow. We reap after we sow. We reap more than we sow, and, we will reap according to how much we sow.

There are those who say, "But I do not believe you should give to get."

God Has A Word for that line of thinking:

The Lord's answer to that crowd is found in Luke 6:38. "*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*"

We are not to give with a selfish motive to get, but we can be assured that God has a principle that as we give out, He will give in to us.

Notice the promise given those who give by faith in II Corinthians 9:10-11.

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.

The sower mentioned in verse 10, is the missionary. God will minister seed to him through God's people.

The same God that meets the missionary's needs will do three things for you.

1- He will **"minister bread for your food."** This means He will supply your daily needs.

2- He will **"multiply your seed sown."** This means the missionary is sowing your seed for you and God will give an increase. He will multiply your seeds sown through the missionary.

3- He will **"increase the fruits of your righteousness."** This teaches us that the fruit the missionary gleans from sowing our seeds will be our fruit when we stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

In II Corinthians 9:7 we learn we are to give excitedly, **"for God loveth a cheerful giver."** The quietest time in our church services is the time of giving. This should be a time of rejoicing because God has blessed us with a job and with good health so we can work.

What can you do to get happy when you are giving?

B. Give Experimentally

Then in II Corinthians 9:13, we also learn that we are to give *experimentally*. This simply means to try it and see if it works. God knew that our flesh would not understand faith giving, so in His mercy He allows us to give on an experimental basis. This simply means we can try it and let God prove that it works.

Consider II Corinthians 9:15, which says, *"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."* This Scripture is located at the end of two chapters of hard teaching on giving. I wondered why God put it here instead of in the Gospels. Why did He?

Remember when you _____, God will give back to you more than you gave to Him.

When we learn to give by faith God will usually supply the mission money in one of three ways.

1- First way---God can supply the money through some unexpected way. He can supply it through an increase in wages, or He can supply it by saving you money. This happens only when we learn to give by faith.

The only way we can reach the world is for the saints of God to recognize their responsibility toward world evangelism, and then learn to trust the Lord to supply the need through them.

This is giving by faith, this is faith-promise giving, and the Scripture does teach in Romans 14:23, ***“Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”***

Faith promise is a commitment by faith between you and God, that as God enables you, you will give a certain amount of money each week to your Church above your tithes for the cause of missions. It is a commitment to God by faith and it is strictly between you and God.

Here is a copy of a faith promise commitment card says:

MY FAITH PROMISE INVESTMENT INWORLD MISSIONS

In dependence upon God, I will endeavor to give above my regular tithes and offerings to the worldwide missionary outreach of our church the amount listed at right for the coming year.

Choose what you will give weekly and circle the listed amount. Your Faith Promise is that you will give this amount regularly through your church during the coming year as the Lord enables you. You will not be asked for it, it is your voluntary investment in the Lord’s work. If you are not able to pay, just tell God.

On one end of the card is a list of figures ranging from \$100 to \$.50. Each person simply prays, asking God what He wants him to give and then circle that amount. When the cards have been filled out, they will be collected by the church and added together to determine the total amount that is promised. Since this is a commitment between you and God, there is no place to sign your name.

Let’s put the proper focus on missions and support them as we should.