

Your Ministry

Lesson #7

Giving

Scripture: Romans 12:8

Juniata Baptist Sunday School

Romans 12:6-8 teaches us that one of the ministries needed in the church is that of *“he that giveth.”* Such people who have this gift are told to exercise it *“with simplicity.”* The Greek word translated *“giveth”* in verse 8 comes from the most common word for *“give,”* but has a prefix that makes it mean something closer to *“share.”* The same form of this word is used in Ephesians 4:28 about sharing what we have with the needy. The word for *“simplicity”* is especially interesting. It usually has the idea of *“sincerity,”* but it can also mean *“generosity.”* II Corinthians 8:2 translates the same word *“liberality.”* Those gifted to give are to do so generously and sincerely.

1. Important.

Giving is very important to the Christian life. We read of Jesus teaching how to give in His early messages to His followers.

“When thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.”
(Matthew 6:3-4)

“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.”(Luke 6:38)

Jesus gave Himself for us, and if we are to be like Him, we must learn to give, too. Every Christian is expected to tithe and give offerings to the Lord, and also to be generous with the needy, but some are especially gifted to make money and give it away.

2. Needed.

People with this gift have always been needed in the work of the Lord. When God had the king of Persia order the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem, we read that some Israelites were to go back and build, while others were to fund the project with their wealth.

“Who is there among you of all his people? His God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem. And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill-offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.”
(Ezra 1:3-4)

Certainly everybody was going to give, but some were especially *enabled* to give large sums. This is how missionary work is done. Some are called to go to a foreign land, and others are called to send them with their prayers and their funds (See Romans 10:14-15). The New Testament says that freewill offerings above the tithe given to meet some special need in the work of the Gospel are *“an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God”* (Read Philippians 4:15-19).

3. Blessed.

The Bible also teaches that people who do this kind of giving will be blessed financially so that they can keep on giving in this way. See what Philippians 4:19 promises to those who helped a missionary financially. Read also II Corinthians 9:7-8.

“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. . .”

God supplies the one gifted to give with money to do more good. Are you somebody God blesses financially and then burdens to help financially in the Cause of Christ? Try it sometime. See what God will do. Stretch your faith farther the next time. Find out if this is a function you have in the Body of Christ.

4. Simple.

Remember the exhortation to givers: “*do it with simplicity.*” No ulterior motives are acceptable to God in this ministry of giving. Giving for men’s applause is an abomination. Giving with the main object of getting

from God has an unworthy motive. Let the givers give out of love for Christ and a sincere desire to meet a need or to accomplish a worthy goal. Remember also that simplicity means liberality. A sincere Christian giver *will be generous!* He will investigate to be sure that the project is worthy, honoring to Christ, and in the will of God. He will pray about his special giving. But when he knows the purpose is right, he will give generously, often sacrificially, because of his love and gratitude for the Lord Jesus Christ.

For example, our building projects have required *prophets* to impress us with the need, *teachers* to show us how from the Bible, *ministers* to do much of the required physical work, *exhorters* to keep us going, and *givers* to supply the finances. When all the members function, the Body works very well (Review again Romans 12:6-8).