THE BLESSINGS OF GIVING

Philippians 4:10-23

7-9-2025

- ***YOU NEED TO LEARN THE BLESSINGS OF GIVING!***

I. IT <u>CAUSES REJOICING</u> (V. 10A)

II. IT <u>REVEALS THOUGHTFULNESS</u> (V. 10B)

III. IT <u>RELIEVES PRESSURE</u> (V. 14)

IV. IT <u>SHOWS GENEROSITY</u> (V. 15-16)

V. IT <u>GAINS (SPIRITUAL) INTEREST (DIVIDENDS)</u> (V. 17, 19)

A. PAUL'S DESIRE (V. 17)

B. GOD'S PROMISE (V. 19)

VI. IT <u>PLEASES GOD</u> (V. 18)

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INTRO: ILLUS. of the young man who was shocked when he saw how much his saved relative was putting in the offering plate one day.

PROP. YOU NEED TO LEARN THE BLESSINGS OF GIVING!

I. IT CAUSES REJOICING (V. 10A)

"Rejoiced" - lit. "I was caused to rejoice" (passive verb)

The generosity of the Philippians made Paul be glad (rejoice) in the Lord! Why "in the Lord" when the Philippians gave the money? Because it was the Lord who worked in their hearts to give! If it was not for God's grace in our lives, we would never give to others (out of a motive of true love, that is).

John 15:12 - "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you."

Not only did their giving cause Paul to rejoice, but it caused him to rejoice greatly! You can't imagine the joy of seeing God meet needs through his people. When people give, it shows that God is working!

Your giving causes people to thank God.

Turn to II Cor. 9:11-12.

It is important to remember that it is God who supplies the believer's needs, but He works through human instruments.

Oftentimes, when our necessities are not provided, it is because someone has failed to respond to the leading of the Lord.

God never intends for any ministry to be hindered because of a lack of funds. Disobedient Christians are to be blamed.

II. IT REVEALS THOUGHTFULNESS (V. 10B)

"Your care" = your thoughts

"Careful" = thoughtful

Paul is saying: Your thoughts for me have flourished (blossomed, sprouted) again! You caused your thought for me to sprout and bloom afresh, like a tree putting out fresh shoots after the winter (Vincent, p. 142).

We all need someone who genuinely cares. But this "care" is not just in words, "but in deed and in truth." (I Jn. 3:18)

Real love proves itself by action, by sacrifice, by generosity!

Ex. of the blessing of receiving cards in mail - just reminders that someone cares. Visiting people, meetings needs, shows you care.

APPLI: We have many opportunities to serve the Lord, but many of us lack the willingness to do it.

II Cor. 8:12 - "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that which a man hath, and not according to that which he hath not."

Maybe the reason why they lacked opportunity was: The Philippians had no way to get the money to Paul until Epaphroditus risked his life to bring it (2:25-30) -
OR maybe the division and dissension in the church had prevented it?? (cp. between Euodias and Syntyche [4:2]).

III. IT RELIEVES PRESSURE (V. 14)

It's tough to go through life alone in this wicked world. We need each other. (This is why God established the local church).

By their gift, the Philippians became partners with Paul. And now although Paul stated that he could have even made it without their gift (v. 12-13), he wants them to know that he does not treat it lightly. He really appreciated it.

This was a wonderful, noble thing that they did! Paul sensed their sympathy and companionship by their generosity.

"Communicate" = to share with someone (to share so that you both have in common)

Acts 2:44-45 - "And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need."

Acts 4:32 - "And the multitude of those that believed were of one heart and of one soul; neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common."

Cp. Phil. 1:4-5 - Sharing with God's man is sharing or having a partnership in the Gospel.

"Affliction" = , tribulation, pressure.

When you have real financial needs, it is an added pressure. A burden on your mind. When someone shares (even if it is just a little), it eases the pressure immensely.

"Bear one another's burdens" (Gal. 6:2).

IV. IT SHOWS GENEROSITY (V. 15-16)

1) The Philippians gave right from the start of their salvation ("In the beginning of the Gospel").

Ex. Lydia opened her home right away for church services (Acts 16).

One proof of your salvation is that "old things are passed away and all things become new" (II Cor. 5:17).

God changes your heart from selfishness to a willingness to give to the Lord and others.

2) The Philippians gave when no one else did.

Sometimes it's easy to give when everyone else is doing it.

We must be people who will come through in the clutch! And give to the Lord's work even if everyone else is unfaithful.

Approximately 10 years had lapsed and no one church gave to Paul except Philippi! (This is why he had to resort to tent-making - this consumed valuable time which could have been invested in spreading the Gospel!)

Giving and spirituality are inseparably linked together.

ILLUS: One time at a church business meeting, some were of the opinion that giving was not of extreme importance in one's personal relationship (fellowship) to Christ. At the height of the discussion, a layman stood and said, "Gentlemen, I want to tell you about my son. When he was born into this world, he cost us money - a doctor bill and a hospital bill. Throughout his childhood days, we continually spent money on him. We fed and clothed him and provided things for his amusement essential in the growth of a young child. Throughout his high school days, he was of even greater expense to us. He needed money for dates, clothes, and many other things. But shortly after graduation from high school, our boy became seriously ill and God saw fit to take him. Now he doesn't cost us a cent." He paused and then said, "Gentlemen, if your faith is not costing you anything, you may be sure it is dead."

God measures our gift, not on the basis of how much we give, but on how much we keep for ourselves.

v. 16 - Even when Paul was in Thessalonica before he even left Macedonia, they gave gifts to him.

The Philippians could have said: "Well, Paul is in Thessalonica now - let them take care of him." But instead they kept on giving. They not only gave once but twice!

NOTE: Thessalonica was a wealthy church (no doubt) yet didn't catch the vision of financially supporting this missionary.

ILLUS: In America we have large, well-equipped buildings and we lose sight of reaching out beyond these walls!

We are too selfish and greedy! God's work is being robbed. (Turn to Mal. 3:8-10)

That which we keep for ourselves, we will leave behind.

I Tim. 6:7 - "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."

V. IT GAINS (SPIRITUAL) INTEREST (DIVIDENDS) (V. 17, 19)

A. PAUL'S DESIRE (V. 17)

Are we not, as Christians, sometimes just as thankful for the spiritual growth of a brother who did some act of kindness for another person, as we are for the person who received the help? Of course we are! That's what Paul is saying here.

Paul knew that when the Philippians gave to him that God's blessings (fruit) would be put into their spiritual bank account!

The Philippians were building up their account in heaven! Mt. 6:20 - "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heave, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal;"

Turn to II Cor. 9:6-8.

The greater the sacrifice, the greater the blessing. Without sacrifice, there can be no real blessing. (Prov. 13:7 - "There is he that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing; there is he that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.")

"A faithful steward would I be
and gather money all for Thee
To use it for the Christ I love
and thus grow rich in heaven above." (A.C.Dickson)

B. GOD'S PROMISE (V. 19)

V. 19 - Don't ever quote this verse unless you meet the condition.

This promise is for those who give. Because they made Paul full (v. 18), God promises to make them full.

David knew the secret of this principle in v. 19. He could say: "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread."

You can't out-give God! See verse 19 -

Lit: "But my God will fill every one of your needs . . ."

If you fill someone else's needs, your own needs will be filled!

His wealth is in Christ!

In Christ dwells all richness (Col. 1:27; 2:3), and those in union with Him are linked to the source and supply of limitless divine wealth.

God's resources are unlimited!

"He is possessor of Heaven and earth" (Gen. 14:22)
"The cattle upon a thousand hills" (Ps. 50:10)
"He has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph.1:3)

VI. IT PLEASES GOD (V. 18)

If there were no other reason why we should give -- we should give because it pleases God!

(That is, if you give sacrificially and if you give with pure motives - This is the way the Philippians gave [v. 18] --- They gave so much that Paul was full!)

They went the extra mile. They were not just interested that his needs were met. They wanted him to live like a king!

O.T. sacrifices were offered to God on the altar. Frequently, the expression "sweet smelling savor" is mentioned (Gen. 8:21 - Noah; Lev. 1:9, 13, 17).

We cannot (and do not need to) offer sacrifices for sin - Our Savior, Jesus Christ has already done that for us (Heb. 10:12).

We can offer:
1) the sacrifice of self (Rom. 12:1-2)
2) the sacrifice of praise (Heb. 13:5)
3) the sacrifice of substance (Heb. 13:16 - "But to do good and to communicate, forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

When you give, God notices!

That offering (just like O.T. incense and sacrifices) has a fragrance that ascends up to Heaven and enters the nostrils of God (figuratively speaking).

Give to God!

William Carey, missionary to India, had a need for funds. So his friend, Andrew Fuller, asked a friend for a contribution. The man said, "Since it is for you, Andrew, here is five pounds." Fuller responded, "Then if you are giving that for me, I must refuse." The giver saw the point. He then said, "Here. Take this ten pounds, since it is for the Lord." (Taylor, p. 142).

Whatever you do for the least of Christ's brethren, you have done it to the Lord Himself (Mt. 25:40).

CONCLU:

1) The Christian who has not yet realized that all he has belongs to God has not experienced freedom from worry (illus. if our property gets ruined, stolen, etc., we can say with Job: "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away - blessed be the name of the Lord!" [Job 1:21]).

2) The Christian who does not joyfully give according to God's Word is mission out on blessing.

YOU MUST LEARN THE BLESSINGS OF GIVING!

1. It causes rejoicing
2. It reveals thoughtfulness
3. It relieves pressure
4. It shows generosity
5. It gains (spiritual) interest (dividends)
6. It pleases God.

Your material goods belong to God; therefore, seek His will for how you should invest them!