

Giving *Rod Sargent*

I. Our desire for money.

- A. God loves a cheerful giver who gives from heart. (II Corinthians 9:7)
- B. Zacchaeus offers to give half of his goods to the poor. (Luke 19:2-10)
- C. Any human being who has a genuine encounter with Christ becomes a generous person.
- D. The early church shared their possessions in common and lived in unity. None of them had any need. (Acts 4:32-35)
- E. One of the most dramatic warnings in the New Testament about giving is the story of Ananias and Sapphira and the loss of the spirit of generosity and the evils that result. (Acts 5:1-11)
 - 1. Deception is a temptation when giving.
 - 2. Satan influenced Ananias' reasoning.
 - a) When Satan influences our thinking, it is always logical and powerful.
 - b) Satan pointed out something that Eve could not have.
 - c) When we are told we cannot do something, we are driven to get it.
 - d) Then Satan appealed to Eve's pride to be like God.
- F. It is not evil in itself to set aside funds, but we must realize the danger in setting aside a reserve.
- G. Keep your life free from the love of money. We are not to love or trust money.
(Hebrews 13:5)
- H. Danger of accumulating wealth and goods. The love of money is the root of all evils.
(I Timothy 6:6-10)
- I. Money is the most subtle and destructive thing that most of us handle in our lives.
- J. Satan wants to smash our desire to be generous.

II. Our desire for things.

- A. The love of things makes us unfruitful. (Mark 4:19)
- B. The Word of God has a primary influence on our view of things and money.

C. The desire for other things:

1. Things have the ability to erode our devotion to Christ.

D. Don't pile up treasures on earth but store up treasure in Heaven. For where your treasure is, there is your heart also. (Matthew 6:19-21)

E. Four guidelines to free yourself from the love of things:

1. Spend as much on non-essential luxury goods with extra giving to the Lord.

2. If you become enamored with something, do not make the purchase until the emotional desire subsides.

3. At the end of the year and total your expenses, make a goal that your largest expense will be your giving.

4. Give things away!

III. Stimulating a spirit of generosity.

A. Apart from the Holy Spirit, the Scripture's teaching can have the most profound influence on our generosity.

B. The Scriptures do not make giving an obligation. Obligatory giving diminishes the spirit of generosity and Scripture.

C. Moses does the first fundraising campaign by collecting from those with a willing heart. (Exodus 25:2, 35:5, 21)

D. The willing Israelites brought their offering. (Exodus 35:29)

E. The people offered willingly to the Lord. (I Chronicles 29:9)

F. How a man gives is more important than how much. (II Corinthians 9:6)

G. Scriptures offers blessing to the giver. (Proverbs 11:24)

H. People reap based on what they sow. (II Corinthians 9:6)

I. Give and it will come back to you. (Luke 6:38)

J. Promise of eternal reward. (Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 12:33)

K. Knowledge of a need is important in stimulating spirit of generosity. (Acts 11:29-30)

L. It's exciting and challenging to meet the need of someone else.

IV. Ten principles Paul demonstrated in II Corinthians 8 and 9.

- A. He made a need known.
- B. He used the example of others by pointing out the Macedonians and their giving.
- C. He taught the Christians in Corinth about giving.
- D. He sent a letter.
- E. He sent a fundraiser. (Titus)
- F. He set a deadline to collect the funds.
- G. He came himself to demonstrate personal involvement.
- H. There was a commitment made by the Corinthians.
- I. He gave incentives for giving.
- J. He provided for the administration of the funds to make certain that no one would have any cause to question the ways the funds were used.