

GIVING TO GOD

2 Corinthians 9:7 ... “so let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Both the Old and New Testaments teach the principle of giving to God, either financially or a portion of what you produce or grow. We give to God through our churches, which use our gifts to support the pastor/priest, pay the church electric bill, repair the facilities, and – most of all – fund efforts to evangelize the unsaved. The Biblical basis for giving back to God a portion of what we have is the principle of stewardship, which simply means that you are entrusted with someone else’s property. In other words, the money, possessions, and talents you possess really belong to God and you are allowed to use those resources to live and to serve him.

Many people struggle with the instruction to be cheerful givers. If you have very little income you may feel that you need every centavo to feed your family. It may be difficult for you to imagine giving a portion of that income to God, when your children are hungry. However, the Bible tells us that a believer who returns a portion of what he has to God, will be blessed for his obedience. I experienced in my own life when I was a young adult and earning a tiny paycheck, that my obedience and joy in giving a portion of that to God, resulted in greater blessings for me. The saying, “You cannot out give God,” is definitely true. The more you give, the more he will bless you as long as your attitude is pure and your objective is to obey and serve. You will not be blessed if your only reason for giving is to receive blessings.

If you accept the Biblical teaching that everything you have belongs to God, it will be easier to adjust your thinking about how you treat his property, and what you give back to him. In fact, the better way to think about giving to God is not to consider the portion you give, but the portion you keep. The level of your devotion and obedience to God is not determined by what you give him, but in what you keep and what you do with what you keep.

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