

Principles of Giving

by Wayne Goff

"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: on the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come" 1 Corinthians 16:1–2.

Note from this Scripture the biblical principles of proper giving

Periodical Giving

"On the first day of the week" or as the RSV translates "on the first day of every week." By this plan the **needs** of the church will be met.

Personal Giving

*"...Let **each one of you** lay something aside."* Christianity is first individual! We will give an account of our stewardship before God — of our time, our talents, our money, our opportunities — God is a fair, just Judge. Others cannot do for us what we *alone* must do.

Proportionate Giving

"...storing up as he may prosper..." How much one should give is determined by each individual, but the text does say that it should be in **proportion** to your earnings. Those who prosper more should give more. Those who prosper less should give less. *"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully" (2 Cor. 9:6). "But as you abound in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us — see that you abound in this grace also" (2 Cor. 8:7).* God wants us to give as we have prospered and as bountifully as we can. Miserliness is not a godly attribute.

Planned Giving

"...storing up as he may prosper" implies planning. We do not give *"grudgingly"* or *"of necessity"* (2 Cor. 9:7). We do give *"cheerfully"* (2 Cor. 9:7), *"willingly"* (2 Cor. 8:12), and *"liberally"* (2 Cor. 9:5-6). Thus, we purpose in our hearts to give in a God-honoring way.

Planned giving should not be done in a haphazard way! We should give to the church treasury where we are members. We should give every week, not just when we are present. Why? Because our giving is based upon our prospering. Conclusion

"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:35).

There is a **blessing** connected with giving. *"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work" (2 Cor. 9:8).* If you will give back to God, to His work, to His church, then God will give back to you! This does not mean that God will return dollar-for-dollar what you have given. But it does mean that God will supply all your needs — *"seed to the sower, and bread for food" (2 Cor. 9:10)* — and all will be well with your life and your soul.

Remember, the **opposite** of generosity is miserliness. God loves a cheerful, generous giver.

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