

Fall 2021 Quarter: Spiritual Maturity
September Series: "Moving Forward Together"

A Heart to Give

Key Verses:

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

Jeremiah 32:39 *And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me forever, for the good of them, and of their children after them...*

LESSON OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

Today our Sunday School topic is **A Heart to Give!** As the Children of God, it is very important to pay close attention to our relationship with our Heavenly Father. We need to love and support God at the highest level - not just having His "back", but having His heart! Giving to support the Kingdom is one of the things that God wants us to do. Giving because we love Him is how He wants us to do it!

As we grow in our relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, our giving becomes central in many ways. The lesson today is designed to provide insight concerning the concept of having A Heart to Give.

I. What is A Heart to Give?

A heart to give is when someone has such a love for God that they want to see His will come to pass and the Kingdom agenda fulfilled. This is a divine passion and its essence starts with God. God is so giving. He gave us life itself (Acts 17:25), He constantly sustains us by His providential gifts (Acts 14:17), and, most significantly of all, He gave His beloved Son so that any sinful person might enjoy salvation if He so chooses to come (John 3:16; Romans 6:23). Giving is the character of God.

Here are some Biblical characteristics of a Heart to Give:

- **A Heart to Give** produces support for the church and ministry (1 Corinthians 16:2)
- **A Heart to Give** displays joy and the right attitude (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).
- **A Heart to Give** is generous and sacrificial (Mark 12:41-44; Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35).
- **A Heart to Give** is concerned for the advancement and mission of the Kingdom of God (Galatians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 6:10; Acts 11:29-30).

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- **A Heart to Give** understands and plans support as a financial priority (1 Corinthians 16:1-4).

II. Why Do We Give to God?

We give as members of the Body of Christ to (1) worship God, (2) support the vision and mission of the Kingdom of God and (3) to engage in God's promise of provision for those that trust God. If we didn't trust God in our giving, we would not grow spiritually, our faith wouldn't be built up and we would not get to experience the amazing benefits God has in place for us when we step out and believe in His process!

Wrong motives for giving:

1. **Pride.** If you give just to be seen and esteemed for a public display - you are giving for the wrong reason.
2. **Guilt.** We should not give because we feel guilty about having so much. If we're not being good stewards of what God has entrusted to us, then we should repent and give from the right motivation.
3. **Power.** Money is power. Some people threaten to take their large gifts elsewhere if you don't do what they want. That may be how politics operates, but that isn't how God's church operates. It's wrong to show preference to the wealthy (James 2:1-9). It's sin to use your money to try to buy spiritual influence (Acts 8:18-24).

Right motives for giving:

- Give because God has given to you.
- Give because you want to please God.
- Give because you want God to be glorified.
- Give because you want your heart to be right before God.
- Give because you want your life to be used by God.
- Give because you want to lay up treasures in heaven.
- Give because you want your faith to grow.
- Give because you want to be a compassionate person.
- Give to be a worshiper of God.

III. FINAL REFLECTIONS

Our **Heart to Give** is really a response concerning how much God has loved and covered us! There really is no dollar amount or proportion that is "worthy" when it comes to giving. God has done so much for us that it is impossible to begin to repay Him. However, our heart of gratefulness goes a long way with God. Continue to support with joy as God prospers you. In doing so, you can enjoy His presence in the framework of authentic worship with a heart of faith to the ongoing work of the ministry of the gospel, advancement of the local church and the Kingdom of God at large.