

The Generosity of the Cross

*Giving in Response to Christ
(2 Corinthians 9:7)*

Introduction: Giving is not about pressure; it's about perspective.

Like the little boy who clung to his toy, many Christians say, "It's my life, money and time!" when it comes to giving. The best New Testament teaching on Christian giving can be found in 2 Corinthians 8-9.

- God calls us to be cheerful givers, not reluctant or pressured ones.
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 – says, "God loves a "hilarious giver."

When we understand how much Jesus gave for us, our giving becomes a joyful act of worship.

I. Christ's ultimate _____—He gave us His all:

- **John 3:16** – "For God so loved the world that He "gave" His only begotten Son..."
- **2 Corinthians 8:9** – "Though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor."
- **Philippians 2:5-9** – Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death.

The cost to Jesus:

A. **Theologically:** Jesus, being fully God, chose to humble Himself.

B. **In His incarnation:** He took the form of a servant and lived under human struggles.

C. **On the cross:** Jesus suffered the ultimate death and bore our sins.

- **Galatians 3:13** – "Christ redeemed us from the of the law by becoming a curse for us."
- Jesus' sacrifice was the highest act of generosity.

II. Giving as _____ A response to grace:

A. We give because we have first experienced His grace.

- **2 Corinthians 9:7** – "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give."
- *True generosity is never forced—it overflows from a heart transformed by grace.*

B. Our ultimate debt was paid in full by Christ.

- Like a friend paying for our meal before we even see the check, Jesus paid our debt (in full).
- *He didn't just contribute to our salvation; He paid the full price we could never afford.*
- *The cross was not a loan to be hung over our head—it was a gift of grace, freely given.*
- *Our giving is not an attempt to repay God (which would be impossible) but a grateful response to what He has already done.*

C. Worship through generosity

- **Proverbs 3:9** – "Honor the Lord with your wealth, the firstfruits of all of your crops."
- Giving acknowledges that everything belongs to God.

Examples of biblical giving:

1. The Tabernacle offerings – The Israelites gave so generously that Moses told them to stop giving (Exodus 36:5-7).
2. David's offerings for the temple – The people rejoiced in their willing response (1 Chronicles 29:9).
3. Hezekiah's revival – The people brought so much that there was an large heaps of offerings left over (2 Chronicles 31:10).
4. Ezra's temple rebuilding – The people gave according to their ability (Ezra 2:69).

D. Giving is an act of faith.

- **2 Corinthians 9:8** – "God is able to bless you abundantly..." so you will always have what you need.

E. Giving reflects the heart of Christ.

- Jesus multiplied bread and fish to feed the hungry.
- He welcomed sinners to His table.
- Ultimately, He gave His life for us.

III. Giving as an act of _____

- **Matthew 6:33** – "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."
- **Malachi 3:10** – "Test me in this... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven."

It's impossible to outgive God! (Remember like the farmer – God has the bigger shovel, and He always will.)

IV. Practical ways to give generously. So, what does generous giving look like in real life?

1. **Prioritize giving** – Make it the first thing in your budget like those Old Testament examples we spoke of, and not the leftovers.
2. **Give proportionally** – Whether you are just new to giving and you start with a tithe give according to what God has given you. *And watch Him continue to meet your needs as you grow in giving faith.*
3. **Give sacrificially** – Sometimes, God calls us to step out in faith beyond what feels comfortable.
4. **Give with joy** – Let your giving be an act of "hilarious" worship, not an act of duty. *(you may recall the old saying – money is a terrible master – but it makes a great slave – so put it to work for the kingdom of God!)*

Challenge: How can your giving reflect the generosity of Christ this week?