

GIVING THAT FEELS GOOD

March 19, 2017

Introduction: If there is an area of my life for which I have needed constant transformation, it is the area of giving. Over the years my motivation for giving has matured. When we give, we are able to do an enormous amount of work to further the kingdom, but, we also know it pleases God. If we are going to be shaped into His image, we must not ignore the subject of giving which is essential to every Christians' life.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:1-4

¹ "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have **no reward** from your Father who is in heaven. ² "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, **they have received their reward.** ³ But **when you give** to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving **may be in secret.** And your **Father who sees in secret will reward you** (Matthew 6:1-4).

QUESTION: What if we really believed that God saw how much we gave to those around us and rewarded us?

REMEMBER: God does not need our money.

¹ The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, ² for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers (Psalm 24:1-2).

#1 – Guilt ("Have To" giving)
2 Corinthians 9:7

*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, **not reluctantly or under compulsion**, for God loves a **cheerful giver** (2 Corinthians 9:7).*

#2 – Responsibility ("Ought To" giving)
2 Corinthians 8:7

*But just as you excel in everything-in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us-see that you also **excel in this grace of giving** (2 Corinthians 8:7).*

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! **You give a tenth** of your spices-mint, dill and cummin. But **you have neglected the more important matters** of the law-justice,*

mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former (Matthew 23:23).

#3 – Needs (“Want To” giving).
2 Corinthians 8:13-15

*Our desire is not that **others might be relieved** while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time **your plenty will supply what they need**, so that in turn their plenty **will supply what you need**. Then there will be equality, as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little" (2 Corinthians 8:13-15).*

#4 – Thanksgiving (“Can’t Help It” giving)
2 Corinthians 9:12-13

*This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing **in many expressions of thanks to God**. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and **for your generosity in sharing** with them and with everyone else (2 Corinthians 9:12-13).*

#5 – Worship (“It’s My Nature” giving)
2 Corinthians 8:5

*And they did not do as we expected, but **they gave themselves first to the Lord** and then to us in keeping with God's will (2 Corinthians 8:5).*

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God-**this is your spiritual act of worship** (Romans 12:1).*

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QUESTION: What if we really believed that God saw how much we gave to those around us and rewarded us?

REMEMBER: God does not need our _____. (*Psalm 24:1-2*)

Motivations for Giving

#5 – _____ (“_____” giving)
2 Corinthians 8:5

#4 – _____ (“_____” giving)
2 Corinthians 9:12-13

#3 – _____ (“_____” giving).
2 Corinthians 8:13-15

#2 – _____ (“_____” giving)
2 Corinthians 8:7

#1 – _____ (“_____” giving)
2 Corinthians 9:7