

The Joy Of Giving

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Giving Should Bring Joy

A. Planned Giving (9:1-5)

1. Is grounded in a spirit of generosity (9:2)

“For I know the forwardness of your mind”

2. Stirs others to generosity (9:2)

“your zeal hath provoked very many”

3. Demands personal preparation (9:3-4)

“Yet have I sent the brethren...”

4. Meets the criterion of freedom

“I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren...”

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B. Four Ways To Give A Gift

- 1. Give as a duty**
- 2. Give simply to find self-satisfaction**
- 3. Give from motives of prestige**
- 4. Give under love's compulsion**

Give because you cannot help but give

1 John 2:20

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C. The Principles of Giving (9:6-15)

- 1. No man is ever a loser because he is generous (9:6)**
- 2. What can a generous man expect?**
 - a. He will be rich in love (Romans 5:5, 1 John 3:18)**
 - b. He will be rich in friends (Proverbs 18:24)**
 - c. He will be rich in help (Matthew 5:7)**
 - d. He will be rich towards God (Malachi 3:10)**
- 3. God loves the happy giver (9:7)**
Deuteronomy 15:7-11
- 4. The characteristics of the generous man (9:8-9)**
Psalm 112:3, 9

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C. The Principles of Giving (9:6-15) - continued

5. What giving does? (9:10-14)

a. For others

- 1). It relieves their need**
- 2). It restores their faith in their fellow men**
- 3). It makes them thank God**

b. For ourselves

- 1). It demonstrates our faith by turning words into deeds**
- 2). It wins us both the love and the prayers of others that nurtures fellowship**

c. For God

- 1). Prayers of thanksgiving**
- 2). Glorifies him through our good deeds**

Conquering Critics

2 Corinthians 10:1-18

Sometimes we must meet criticism head-on

I. Paul Answers His Critics' First Charge (10:1-7)

2 Corinthians 10:1-2

1 Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

2 But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

A. Their charge of being a coward (10:1-2)

1. Paul's Christ-like response

2. Paul's confidence against the charge

I. Paul Answers His Critics' First Charge (10:1-7)

B. Paul's defense (10:3-7)

1. He did not war after the flesh (vv 3-5)

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Ephesians 6:10-12

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

James 1:26

If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

I. Paul Answers His Critics' First Charge (10:1-7)

How Do We Fight Our Battles?

I. Paul Answers His Critics' First Charge (10:1-7)

B. Paul's defense (10:3-7) - continued

2. He did not want to be severe with all (v 6)

2 Corinthians 10:6

**And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience,
when your obedience is fulfilled.**

I. Paul Answers His Critics' First Charge (10:1-7)

B. Paul's defense (10:3-7) - continued

3. He cited his critics' bias (v 7)

2 Corinthians 10:7

Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? if any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's.

What is your lens for looking at things?

II. Paul Answers His Critics' Second Charge (10:8-18)

A. Their charge of being weak (10:8-10)

2 Corinthians 10:8-10

8 For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:

9 That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters.

10 For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.

II. Paul Answers His Critics' Second Charge (10:8-18)

B. Paul's defense (10:11-18)

1. His critics would soon see his strength (10:11)

2 Corinthians 10:11

Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present.

It is easy to criticize someone who is not around

II. Paul Answers His Critics' Second Charge (10:8-18)

B. Paul's defense (10:11-18) - continued

2. His critics unwisely commendeth themselves (v 12)

2 Corinthians 10:12

For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

To feel someone is weak means that you feel strong

II. Paul Answers His Critics' Second Charge (10:8-18)

B. Paul's defense (10:11-18) - continued

3. The Corinthians' faith commended him (vv 13-17)

Corinthians 10:13-17

13 But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.

14 For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ:

II. Paul Answers His Critics' Second Charge (10:8-18)

B. Paul's defense (10:11-18) - continued

3. The Corinthians' faith commended him (vv 13-17)

Corinthians 10:13-17

15 Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly,

16 To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand.

II. Paul Answers His Critics' Second Charge (10:8-18)

B. Paul's defense (10:11-18) - continued

3. The Corinthians' faith commended him (vv 13-17)

Corinthians 10:13-17

17 But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

You can't argue successfully against facts

James 2:18

**Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works:
shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew
thee my faith by my works.**

II. Paul Answers His Critics' Second Charge (10:8-18)

B. Paul's defense (10:11-18) - continued

4. The Lord commended him (v 18)

2 Corinthians 10:18

For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.