

2 Corinthians 9:7-11 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

THE CONCEPT: With the income God blesses you with...

1. Give first
2. Save second
3. Live on the rest

The ability to give first doesn't come naturally. It comes supernaturally.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

HOW should we give?

Not reluctantly because of guilt.
But willingly because of joy

Not indifferently out of habit, or spontaneously on a whim
But intentionally with a plan.

WHY Give?

- God is a giver & we want to be like Him
- Godly giving requires, refines and reveals faith
- A closed fist cannot receive more gifts.
- The result of generous giving is thanksgiving to God

Points to Ponder:

1. Develop or review your GIVE plan:
 - a. Percent to give as offering: _____% = Amount: \$_____
 - b. Percent or amount you'll give to meet the needs of others:

 - c. How will I give? Electronically Check Cash
2. Discuss this phrase with your family or small group:
"God doesn't need my money, but he knows I need to give it."
3. A friend says, "I don't have much joy in giving. I find myself thinking about all I could have purchased with that money." What would you tell your friend?

Homework: Matthew 25:14-30