

GIVING BY FAITH IS SOWING

2 Corinthians 9



The underlying theme in this chapter is GIVING, and, amazingly, the writer refers to giving as SOWING. So whatever you offer is not just a gift or an offering but it is a seed. Therefore it would be foolish to expect a harvest when there was no sowing.

When giving, shift your eyes from what you are giving to cast them on the giver of all good things, who is also the REWARDER.

The 6th verse of this chapter says: “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” This goes to say that whenever you give, you should expect a harvest.

Harvest only applies when you sow, and harvest season only benefits those that sowed. But beyond the giving and sowing, what counts more is the attitude that one gives with. Basically HOW you give is more important than WHAT you give. Cain and Abel both gave, but Abel's offering was pleasing to the Lord. The attitude in which you give affects the result of the harvest, the bible says in Hebrews 11: 4, “By faith, Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain”.

An important element about giving is that it's not about giving a little or a lot but giving with joy and by faith. Giving by faith and with joy is so important, because God looks at the heart of the giver. Your faith shapes how you give and it sets your heart right with God as you give. That same faith makes your giving acceptable to God, it may seem small in the eyes of man but only God knows the place from which it was given.

The topic of giving and sowing isn't limited to material or money, but it extends to a lot of other things. That also applies to God, giving to God includes offering but it's not limited to it. This now introduces the idea that if we don't give to God what is due to Him, then we are robbing Him. There are three main areas of which a Christian can rob God, and that is with WORSHIP, TIME, and their TITHES and OFFERINGS. How can a man rob God?

A Christian can rob God of His worship when he doesn't place God as the first in His life. “You must worship no other gods, for the Lord, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you” Exodus 34:14 NLT.

The commandment is clear that God doesn't want to share His place with anyone or anything. It can happen that you either give yourself that first place or you can give it to someone or something. And whenever that happens, you've robbed God of His worship.

To give God His worship, you have to remove everything that stands as an obstacle between you and Him and let Him be first in everything. Because anything that stands between you and Him becomes your idol.

Ecclesiastes 11 says “There is a time for everything”, and if you don’t allocate time for God, then you’ve robbed Him of His time. It’s amazing how we find it easy to allocate time for many things, but when it comes to God it becomes difficult. God wants your time, and He wants the best of it not just the remaining 5 seconds before sleeping. Giving God your time is done by faith because at times you will have to sacrifice seemingly important things. Time offering covers a wide range of activities, from praying, to attending a service, including the time you spend doing His work.

The third thing that a Christian can rob God of is tithes and offering. “You people are robbing me, your God. And, here you are, asking, “How are we robbing you?” You are robbing me of the offerings and of the ten percent that belongs to me” Malachi 3:8 CEV.

When you don’t give God the things that He asks you to give, you rob Him of what belongs to Him. You don’t just give for the sake of giving or because others are doing it. You give your tithes and offerings because you love Him, and you do it out of obedience. So to not rob God, you need to give Him what He expects you to give.

As mentioned before, it's not about the size of what you give but how you give. Mark 12 narrates a story of a widow that gave 2 coins, while others gave so much more.

In terms of measurements, she gave little compared to those that were present at the temple. But Jesus told His disciples that she gave the most, and that’s because everyone else gave from their surplus - which they didn’t need. Whereas the widow gave from her poverty and she did it with joy. The greatness of her gift was not in the quantity but in the necessity and the joy with which she gave.

The Lord will never ask you what you don’t have, but he will ask you what you have but may not want to give or think of giving easily (for example, He asked Abraham to offer Isaac). He is the one that gives the seed to the sower, we need to be very careful to not get too attached to the seed. It’s always important to remember that whatever we experience as a blessing from God, it’s either to satisfy our need or to use in contributing for His work.

So in the things that we get from God, there is the BREAD and there is the SEED.

The bread is meant to be eaten to satisfy the hunger, whereas the seed is meant to be planted and reproduce.

“The rain and snow... they cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry” Isaiah 55:10.

God gives us bread for today’s satisfaction, and He causes the seed to multiple. So it’s important to know how to differentiate bread from the seed.

A seed multiplies and reaches others, in other words, your blessing becomes a blessing to others. A complete service is serving God with all that you are and with all that you have. Remember what the Bible says "It is more blessed [and brings greater joy] to give than to receive" Acts 20:35 AMP.

Find joy in giving, do it by faith and with a good attitude.

