

**“Giving My Resources”**  
Believe: What Shall I Do? — Part 9  
*2 Corinthians 8:7*

**KEY VERSE**

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*

Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.  
*1 Thessalonians 4:9-10*

**1. Generosity is rooted in the character of God.**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.  
*Ephesians 2:8-10*

**God gave!**  
We couldn't buy it.  
We didn't earn it.  
We didn't deserve it.  
**God gave it anyway!**

“It's not how much we give but  
how much love we put into giving.”  
*Mother Teresa*

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.  
*James 1:17*

- Giving and generosity are not synonymous.
- Giving is an action. Generosity is the attitude behind the action.
- Giving is an event—Generosity is a lifestyle.
- Our generous God wants us to live generously.

**KEY QUESTION**

*How do I best use my resources to serve God and others?*

## **2. Check your motivation. (Why do we give?)**

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 2 Corinthians 9:7-9 (NLT)

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. Matthew 6:24

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

## **3. Develop an attitude of gratitude.**

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:15-17

## **4. Trust the Owner to provide.**

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38

**We don't give to get! We get to give!  
If we live with open hands,  
God will place things in them,  
freely take things out,  
and freely replenish them.**

One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. Proverbs 11:24-25

### **KEY IDEA**

*I give my resources to fulfill God's purposes.*

**Application: Put your money where your mouth is!** Generosity is one of the most tangible expressions of God's love in us for others. You can't just say you love God and others and not be generous with your resources.

*.I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. Luke 16:9*

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*

*1 John 3:16-18*