

The Worths of Kingdom Giving

“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.”

(2 Cor 9:7, NIV)

The Apostle Paul encouraged the saints in Corinth to take up a collection for God's people in Jerusalem who were suffering a famine in their land; and he used the opportunity to communicate to the saints the importance of giving to the work of the Lord. From this exhortation, we can learn several lessons.

Firstly, we witnessed the caring compassion of our God. God has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us in our trials of sufferings, and that he will supply all our pressing needs according to His rich treasury in Christ Jesus (Heb 13:5; Phil 4:19). God's help always comes through the instrumentality of humans: the Corinthian believers were called upon to help the needy believers in Jerusalem. Paul strongly exhorts that nobody must be coerced or frightened into giving for true giving comes from a willing heart.

Secondly, the seeds and sacrifices of giving to the Lord's work is an act of worship (Phil 4:18; 1 Cor 16:2). When we give, it is an expression of our love and honour for the Lord (Mal 1:6,7). Those who give generously feared the Lord (Mal 1:14).

Thirdly, the act of sowing financial seeds does provoke heaven's response for the corresponding effects of good harvest promises stated in 2 Corinthians 9:8. It activates the law of sowing and reaping (Gen 8:22). It empowers the release of divine favours and open heavens (Mal 1:9; 3:10). God will fight your battles and drive away the devouring spirit (v.11).

Finally, the Apostle Paul encouraged the Corinthians – and us! – by telling them that their giving will result in offerings of praises and thanksgiving to God on the part of those receiving the gift. Our heartfelt giving will bring forth the gratitude of thanksgiving to our redeemer God in others (2 Cor 9:11-15).

Commendation of watering others (Pro 11:25-26)