

BEGINNING ANEW IN GIVING!

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

INTRODUCTION: Stewardship is using what the Lord has given to us for His glory and to accomplish His goals for our lives. Everything we have is not ours. Everything we have is on loan from God as a stewardship for Him: Psalm 24:1; James 1:7. We have each been blessed by our Lord so we can be a blessing: 2 Corinthians 9:1-2. Sometimes we just need a reminder that we need to keep on giving for our Lord's work: 2 Corinthians 9:3-5. We don't give because of guilt or necessity but we give because of God's grace.

I. WE MUST LEARN TO GIVE ABUNDANTLY!

I hope you want to give to the Lord's work abundantly because of God's promises to abundant givers: 2 Corinthians 9:6; Proverbs 11:24-25. In our world's economy that does not make sense, but in God's economy it does make sense. The Bible teaches us to give first to our Lord before anything or anyone else: Malachi 3:6-13. The word "tithe" means "tenth" and what God is saying is to set aside for Him the first tenth of all He gives to you for our first fruit giving. We give our first and we are to give our best! When we give our first and our best God gives us even more: Proverbs 11:25.

II. WE MUST LEARN TO GIVE CHEERFULLY!

When it is time to give to the Lord's work, how do you give? Is it cheerfully or reluctantly? 2 Corinthians 9:7. Our grace giving should be with joy. Remember God's grace gift for us: John 3:16. Our Lord does not need our money, what He desires is our hearts and if He has our hearts we will give with joy!

III. WE MUST LEARN TO GIVE EXPECTANTLY!

When we give cheerfully, willingly, and abundantly, we ought to expect our God to bless it and us for giving in that way: 2 Corinthians 9:8. Maybe you think you cannot afford to tithe. Let me remind you that God really wants you to come to the point you believe you cannot afford not to tithe: 2 Corinthians 9:9-14.

IV. WE MUST LEARN TO GIVE THANKFULLY!

2 Corinthians 9:15: The reason we want to learn how to give with God's grace is because of God's greatest gift He has given to mankind: His only begotten Son: John 3:16. When we mature in our faith and realize all that our God has given to us it just naturally leads us to desire to give back to Him. We owe God everything, and when we truly understand that we will fully understand what it means to give by grace.

