

The Joy of Giving II

Philippians 4:10-19; Psalms 96:1-13; Luke 6:38

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Introduction – The Philippian Christians had learned the secret of joyful, liberal financial giving. The church in Philippi had taken up an offering to give to Paul, in prison because of his faith. Paul wrote back to the church and expressed his joy (see verse 10). Joy, or its derivative, occurs almost 20 times in this letter. Have you discovered the joy of giving? In what ways can giving make you a joyful person? *Gary Hardin*

“Our consumer-oriented society pressures us to place too much value on material things, to the point that our joy is based on how much we have. This approach to life results in chronic dissatisfaction. We never seem to have enough.” *Unknown*

I. Giving revives our concern (v. 10 amp.)

1. The Philippian Christians had been barren in their giving, but now, they were blossoming anew with concern for Paul's welfare.
2. Giving takes the focus off ourselves and puts it onto someone or something else.
3. Giving becomes a tangible way we can express concern and love to other people.

II. Giving teaches us contentment (v. 11)

1. Paul did not want this church to think that his joy rested on whether he had money.
2. He had joy in his life, not because his purse was full, but because he had learned contentment. Paul believed his sufficiency was in Christ (Hebrews 13:5).
3. Contentment means living with a sense of God's adequacy.

III. Giving makes us partners in ministry (v. 14).

1. The word share is the same word often translated as "fellowship." The word denotes partnership.
2. Each time we give to the Lord's work, we partner with other Christians to help advance the kingdom.

IV. Giving pays spiritual dividends (vv. 17-18)

1. The phrase "credited to your account" implies that giving to the Lord is like investing in kingdom matters.
2. Giving from the right motives and for the right reasons becomes in God's sight an act of worship and devotion (v.18).

V. Giving grows our faith in God (v. 19)

1. Paul gave them a great promise to stand upon.
2. Verse 19 encourages us to take the step of faith and to give, trusting God to meet our need.