

Hiding In All The Wrong Places

Series: Making Faith Investment

2 Corinthians 8-9

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When all is said and done, it is not merely because of ignorance that some believers do not participate in giving willingly, systematically, and gratefully to the church. Some Christians either keep a convenient distance between themselves and God's principles, or they assume that they somehow have been exempted from His command as well as His principles.

- Tithing Is God's Way of Perpetuating His Program
- Tithing Is God's Way of Pointing Out His Priorities
- Tithing Is God's Way of Proving His Promises
- Tithing Is God's Way of Promoting Our Faith
- Tithing Is God's Way of Providing For Our Needs

If these principles from God's Word are so clear and they have been taught so many times, why is it that some people still do not give to God?

1. Some People Don't Give Because They Are Not Concerned About God's Work

imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 2 Corinthians 8:4

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9

For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have. 2 Corinthians 8:12

2. Some People Don't Give Because They Are Not Convinced That They Are Responsible Before God

So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. 2 Corinthians 8:6

But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also. 2 Corinthians 8:7

And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; 2 Corinthians 8:10

*But now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. **2 Corinthians 8:11***

*Lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting. **5** Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation. **2 Corinthians 9:4-5***

One out of every six verses in Matthew, Mark, and Luke has to do with Stewardship.

If a person is not convinced that he is responsible before God, then he has failed to read Scripture.

3. Some People Don't Give Because They Cannot Commit Themselves To God's Work

3** For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, **2 Corinthians 8:3

11** but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. **2 Corinthians 8:11

12** For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have. **2 Corinthians 8:12

2** for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority. **2 Corinthians 9:2

7** So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. **2 Corinthians 9:7

4. Some People Don't Give Because They Are Not Courageous Enough To Trust God

6** But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **2 Corinthians 9:6

10** Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, **11** while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. **2 Corinthians 9:10-11

8** And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. **2 Corinthians 9:8

9

*Honor the Lord with your possessions,
And with the firstfruits of all your increase;*

10

*So your barns will be filled with plenty,
And your vats will overflow with new wine. **Proverbs 3:9-10***

5. Some People Don't Give Because They Are Not Careful About Life's Priorities

The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9 that we are supposed to begin and complete. We can't be careless about this. The Bible says the people who have given have determined beforehand and made a special point of it. This decision is not from emotion; rather, it has been a very logical decision in response to God's Word.

6. Some People Don't Give Because They Are Not Christians

I'm not saying that if you don't give to God you are not a Christian. I am saying that it is possible for you to go to church and not be a Christian. And after all, if you haven't given your heart to the Lord, why would you give Him anything else?

*5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. **2 Corinthians 8:5***