

# God Loves a Cheerful Giver

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*II Corinthians 9:7*

- I. **God loves a cheerful giver, because He Himself is a joyful giver and wants you to enter into a covenant of abundance and happiness (II Corinthians 9:6-15).**
  - A. God proved His generosity by giving Jesus, the indescribable gift; and His Son is just like His Father. “For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross” (Heb. 12:1-2).
    1. The race marked out for us is to run with the same generosity. We follow Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of faith” (Hebrews 12:2).
    2. Part of being perfected comes through entering the joy of giving. It is a key part of walking with Jesus. “We love, because He first loved us” (I John 4:19).
  - B. The secret of a full and abundant life is to invest in others and share “the Master’s happiness” (Matthew 25:14-30). Notice especially, Matthew 25:19-23, 26-29.
- II. **In Paul’s writing to the Corinthians, he tells of a wonderful happiness coming from a generous lifestyle (II Corinthians 9:6-15).**
  - A. Happiness, because God gives back to you (II Corinthians 9:6-11).
  - B. The happiness of others “overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God” (II Corinthians 9:12-13).
  - C. Others will give back to you by praying for you, “and in their prayers for you, their hearts will go out to you” (II Corinthians 9:14).
  - D. A powerful prayer connection comes from investing in other people’s lives and should not be underestimated. The prayers of people we have invested in are true prayers of agreement that move heaven and earth (Matthew 18:18-20).
- III. **There are various forms of giving that God loves.**
  - A. Giving to your enemies (Luke 6:27-36)
    1. “Your reward will be great,” because God also is “kind to the ungrateful and wicked” (vs. 35).
    2. Don’t expect anything back from them. “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36).
  - B. Forgive others without judgment or condemnation (Luke 6:37). On the cross, Jesus cried, “Forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 22:34).
  - C. All these forms of giving, including financial giving, result in a “good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over...poured into your lap” (Luke 6:38).
- IV. **Quotes from Jack Hayford about Luke 6:38**
  - A. “There is a law of reciprocity: ‘Give and it will be given to you.’”
  - B. “Beside it, there is the law of self-determination: ‘For with the same measure you use, it will be measured to you.’”
  - C. “Think of it! God promises that when we open the faucet of possibility through our own giving, a heavenly reservoir is waiting to flow towards us with a whole lot more than you or I could ever contain. But we decide how open the faucet will be...God doesn’t say He’ll love us more if we open wider, but that we will love more.”

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