

Commitment to Give

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I. Introduction. Text: II Corinthians 8:1-9.

II. The Corinthians had joy even though they were in deep poverty.

A. Joy has nothing to do with circumstance or possession.

B. Poverty and joy produced liberality in giving.

C. Liberality does not hinge on a person's ability.

D. There are many ways to give.

III. Paul did not come down with a heavy hand in giving—the Corinthians gave voluntarily.

IV. Things that a person ought to give.

A. One should give himself to the Lord. God did not spare what was most precious to Him, so we should not spare ourselves. (Romans 8:31-32, 12:1-2)

B. One should give himself to ministry.

C. One should give himself to leaders in the ministry imitating the faith of those who loved him. (Hebrews 13:7, 17)

V. God's work of grace is not complete in a person until there is giving in that person's life.

Application questions:

1. Why is poverty not an excuse for failing to give?

2. Why do you think giving oneself to God, the ministry and leaders helps one give more of his possessions?

3. What are some sacrifices you can make to increase your own giving? Explain.
