

Nairobi Baptist Church Bible Study Materials

JUNE 2022

GROW IN GIVING

PREAMBLE

Our ability to give is based on our knowledge of God as One who gives generously and gives the best. Therefore, when the bible teaches that we should set aside our very best in time, material possessions (income) and also in skills and effort - it is because that is exactly what God himself does. He demonstrated this by giving his Only Son, Jesus, to us and by giving the Holy Spirit to those who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Our giving should therefore be in recognition of God's example of giving and also in recognition that it is through the Holy Spirit that we are able.

STUDY ONE

WEEK OF 5th JUNE

GOD'S GIFT TO US

Introduction:

On the day of Pentecost, God gave "the gift of the Holy Spirit" in keeping with the promise Jesus gave in John 14:15-17, John 16:5-7 and in Acts 1:8. Pentecost was a time when God's chosen people, Israel, gave first fruits in celebration of the abundant harvest God gave them. In giving the Holy Spirit, God gave much more than we could ever give - he gave of himself. Our response to this should therefore be to trust in God who gives to us abundantly and to celebrate his gift to us through reverent worship and thanksgiving.

Read: Acts 2:1-21 & Luke 11:9-13

Observation: (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. On what day were the disciples together in one place?
2. What was heard suddenly?
3. What did the disciples see?
4. What happened immediately after the sound they heard and what they had seen?
5. How were the disciples able to speak in tongues?
6. Who were staying in Jerusalem who also heard the sound?
7. Why were they bewildered?
8. List the places where these people who were in Jerusalem came from.
9. What did they who were amazed and perplexed ask one another?
10. How were the disciples made fun of?
11. Who stood up from among the apostles to address the crowd?
12. Which prophet did he quote (can you find the Biblical reference from the Old Testament?).

Luke 11:9-13

13. What two questions did Jesus ask?
14. What conclusion did Jesus make from these rhetorical questions?
15. What gift did Jesus promise that our Father in heaven will give?

Interpretation: (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

16. Based on your understanding of Acts 2:1-21, was the Holy Spirit only for the Jews? (Read also: Acts 10:44-48)
17. Why do you think God gave His gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost?
18. As Christians, why do we need the Holy Spirit?
19. Is speaking in tongues the main indicator of being filled with the Holy Spirit? (Read also: 1 Corinthians Chapters 12, 13, 14).

Application:

20. How would you tell someone who is not a believer about your experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Memory Verse: Luke 11:13

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!

STUDY TWO

WEEK OF 12th JUNE

GIVING WITH WILLING HEARTS

[Review last week's memory verse: Luke 11:13]

Introduction:

As God's chosen people, the Israelites gave offerings of various kinds of material things and also gave of their skills for use in the tabernacle of the Lord. Their willingness to give was foundational as was their awareness that they were giving to the LORD (vs. 22). Their willingness was evidenced by the fact that they had to be told to stop giving after they gave much more than was required for the work that needed to be done. That they were asked to stop demonstrated the integrity of those who stewarded the offerings.

Read: Exodus 35:4 to 36:7

Observation: (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. What did the LORD command about giving an offering to Him.
2. List everything mentioned in this passage that could be offered willingly to the LORD.
3. What command was given to all those who were skilled?
4. List the parts of the tabernacle that the skilled people could make.
5. What did the Israelite community do after hearing the command from the LORD through Moses?
6. What was unique about both Bezalel and Oholiab?
7. What did Bezalel, Oholiab and all those who were skilled work on?
8. What request did the skilled workers give to Moses?

Interpretation: (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

9. According to this passage, when ought we to stop offering our gifts?
10. In what other parts of Scripture do we see a mixture of giving and skills of the people working together for the work of the LORD?
11. Offerings in this passage are of material nature. Is it okay to say one does not need to give material offerings? Explain.
12. How do you think the story of Bezalel and Oholiab can apply to Christians in the current day?
13. How do you think the story of the Israelite community and their offerings and skills applies to Christians in the current day?

Application:

14. Reflect on how you can contribute to your church community in either offerings or skills. Share with the group and pray that God may enable you to give in these ways willingly.

Memory Verse: Exodus 35:29

All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do.

STUDY THREE

WEEK OF 19th JUNE

GIVING TO SERVE OTHERS

Introduction:

The Macedonian churches gave sacrificially in spite of their circumstances in order that they could participate in the "service of the gospel." They considered such participation an honor and therefore looked for opportunities to give. As we saw through Exodus 35:4-36:7, it is worth noting that the stewards of these gifts were chosen by the churches (God's chosen people) and were accountable to them in order that the offerings of God's people may be handled with integrity, both before God and before others.

[Review last week's memory verse: Exodus 35:29]

Read: 2 Corinthians 8:1-21

Observation: (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

2 Corinthians 8:1-21

1. What had God given the Macedonian Church?
2. During what conditions did the churches in Macedonia give?

3. How did the people of Macedonia give?
4. Who did the Macedonian Church give themselves to first?
5. In what things did the Corinthians excel?
6. What did Paul urge the Corinthians to excel in also?
7. In writing to the Corinthians, Paul was not giving a command to them. What then is he doing instead?
8. Why should the Corinthian church finish their work?
9. What makes their gift acceptable?
10. What was Paul's desire for the Corinthian Church?
11. Why was Titus being sent to the Corinthian Church?
12. What does Paul want to avoid?
13. What was Paul taking pains to do?

Interpretation: (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

14. The verse, "At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need, that there may be fairness". In what ways can we make this practical?
15. The Macedonian church was said to give even in their extreme poverty. How would that look like practically?
16. What are some examples in Scripture and throughout history of believers serving one another through their gifts?
17. Does this passage describe prosperity Gospel (you will be saved through your giving which will result in personal wealth.)? Explain

Application:

18. Are there any examples in your life where you have been eager to give but your eagerness has not been followed by action? What will you start implementing after going through this passage.

Memory Verse: 2nd Corinthians 8:11

Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.

STUDY FOUR

WEEK OF 26th JUNE

GIVING IN OBEDIENCE TO THE GOSPEL

Introduction:

As we saw from Acts 2, our giving should imitate God's example. The Corinthian Church had made a promise to give a generous gift and Paul was encouraging them to live up to their promise in order that their obedience to the gospel of Christ may be seen by all. The idea of willingness in giving is found in this passage as it was in Exodus 35:4-36:7; making it clear that willingness and generosity make our giving acceptable to God, who in turns rewards such willingness and generosity.

[Review last week's memory verse: 2 Corinthians 10:11]

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Observation: (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. What has Paul's boast about the Corinthians to the Macedonians?
2. Why was Paul sending the brothers to Corinth?
3. What would happen if the Macedonians found the Corinthian church unprepared?

4. How will the gift be once the brothers have finished arrangements?
5. What are the Corinthians urged to consider when giving?
6. What attitude should the Corinthians have when giving?
7. What does Paul say is the outcome of giving voluntarily?
8. What is the result of the generosity of the Corinthians?
9. What were the effects of the Corinthian church's giving:
 - i) to God?
 - ii) to others?

Interpretation: (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

10. How would you say reading 2 Corinthians 9:7 influences your understanding of the phrase "God loves a cheerful giver?"
11. If the aim of the brothers Paul was sending to Corinth was to ensure there is no embarrassment, can the giving of the Corinthian church still be taken as generous? Explain
12. What virtues in the Corinthian church do you think modern day Christians ought to emulate in the area of giving?
13. How can this passage be used to preach prosperity Gospel (salvation comes through giving materially which will result in personal wealth). How do you think giving can be rephrased so as to counter prosperity Gospel?
14. How is generous giving obedience to the gospel?

Application:

15. What can you start doing so as to ensure you are giving cheerfully? Share with the group and pray for one another concerning this area.

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:13

Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.