

The Gift of Money

January 14, 2008

Is It Really More Blessed to Give?

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." 2 Corinthians 9:6

Recently a dear friend shared with me how her teenage daughter chose to celebrate her birthday with friends by asking them to bring items to her home to make sack lunches instead of bringing gifts for herself. After the guests arrived, these teenagers made a party of putting together sack lunches, taking them downtown and handing them out to the homeless. Wow! What would motivate a young person to do such a thing in a culture that encourages getting all we can for ourselves?

In the movie "Chariots of Fire", Eric Liddell may have given us some insight when he said: "I believe God made me for a purpose... and when I run, I feel His pleasure." Could it be that this teenage girl has already discovered what Eric Liddell discovered -- that God made her for a purpose and when she gives to others she feels God's pleasure -- a pleasure far superior to the pleasure gained from receiving? Oh, that more of us would know such pleasure! How easily we settle for cheap pleasure when God wants to give us so much more.

It is important to ask myself what I really believe about possessions, eternal rewards and true pleasure? When I know and believe that giving is the path to real blessing and pleasure won't I want to give and encourage others to do the same? I have no doubt that I desire for my grandchildren to know that it really is more blessed to give than to get or keep for myself. But for that to happen I must ask what there is about my life that demonstrates to them that I not only know but live my life in a way that shows I believe this is really true!

May God grant us the wisdom to understand, the courage to obey, and the discipline to do it!

ACTION STEPS:

Take a moment to consider and evaluate what brings you the greatest joy. Better yet, ask your grandchildren what they think brings you the greatest pleasure. Are they things related to giving and blessing others or accumulating things for yourself? Keep in mind that we cannot pass on what we do not know and

practice. Ask God to reveal how to effectively model the joy of giving to your grandchildren and at the same time so many others.

GRANDPAUSE:

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Jim Elliot

[Weekly Prayer Suggestion For Grandparents: Adult Influences](#)

Suggested Reading:

[The Treasure Principle](#)

By Randy Alcorn / Multnomah

[Giving: Unlocking the Heart of Good Stewardship, Pursuing Spiritual Transformation](#)

By Zondervan

[My Giving Bank](#)

By Larry Burkett / David C. Cook

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