

TRUE VINE TIMES

Joyful Generosity

Devotional by Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Read [2 Corinthians 9](#)

Thoughts disentangle themselves . . . over the lips and through the fingertips. I learned that saying over thirty years ago, and just about every time I put it to the test, it works! Whenever I have difficulty comprehending the complicated or clarifying the complex, I talk it out or write it out.

Take the importance of giving joyfully to God, for example. [Second Corinthians 9:7](#) says: "Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." The original meaning of the word translated here as "cheerful" is "hilarious," and this is the only time it's found in the New Testament. It's the hilarious giver God prizes.

Now, how does this translate into daily life? How do these thoughts disentangle themselves to become meaningful parts of our lives? I'd like to make the following four suggestions for ways we can bring joy into our giving.

Reflect on God's gifts to you. Hasn't He been good? He certainly has to me. Better than I deserve! In light of God's magnificent grace, a cheerful heart and openhanded generosity seem the most natural responses.

Remind yourself of His promises regarding generosity. Call to mind a few biblical principles that promise a bountiful harvest to those who sow bountifully. Jesus Himself spoke of how much more blessed it is to give than to receive. Bumper crops are God's specialties, so we have nothing to restrain us from dropping maximum seed.

Examine your heart. Nobody knows the combination to your private vault. Only you can probe its contents by asking the hard questions: Do I really believe God's promises on giving? Am I responding as I do because I care or because I feel guilty?

Annual Gathering at the Meyers!
Sunday, October 11th, 5-9pm. Enjoy fellowship around a bonfire. Hot/Cold drinks and popcorn will be provided. You are welcome to bring a snack to share but there is no obligation to do so. If raining, we will still gather in the garage and basement for games and conversation.

IMPORTANT DATES

Oct 4th Inside church services resume.

Oct 11th Meyers outdoor gathering

generously?

IMPORTANT DATES cont.**Oct 13th Property****Stewards meeting****Oct 16th Annual Business
meeting****Oct 27th Church Council**

The September edition of "On the Level" is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS). In their current issue, you can read how MDS volunteers are assisting with the recovery effort from hurricanes Laura and Sally, as well as the deadly west coast wildfires. Volunteers in PA are also making plans to assist farmers facing drought. MDS is currently accepting volunteers for fall and winter projects. [Click on this link to read more: https://conta.cc/33EJ34W](https://conta.cc/33EJ34W)

Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection is ongoing until November 15th. If you would like to donate a shoebox online, please follow this link: [Build a shoebox online](#)

Is my giving proportionate to my income? Have I prayed, or is my giving impulsive? Am I a consistent giver or more hot 'n' cold?

Glorify God by becoming generous. He prizes generosity, especially joyful generosity. Perhaps we need to break the habit of being so conservative, so careful. Maybe we even need to "scare" ourselves with acts of generosity . . . going out on a limb, as it were, and genuinely trusting God to honor our financial faith.

Well, that's it. Just a little lips-and-fingertips clarification. All of us would be wise to address our reluctance to sacrifice financially for the cause of Christ. After all, our goal is joyful generosity, isn't it?

But a Vapor by Kathy Ernest

I hurry through life with so many cares
While Jesus has peace to share

He wants to show me His charity
To give my life clarity

Amidst the rush
When I come away with Him, I find relief from stress
Knowing He will bless
Life is but a vapor
Eternity with Jesus is my rest.

