



Pastor's Comments

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A Cheerful Giver

The Bible states that God loves a **cheerful giver**! In II Corinthians 9:7 we read, *“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”* The Greek word for **“cheerful”** is *hilaros* which means **“willing, joyful, and hilarious.”** God told Moses to receive an offering only from one who, **“giveth it willingly with his heart”** (Exodus 25:2).

Cheerful givers humbly recognize that all they have to give (time and strength as well as possessions) comes from God. David said, *“But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee”* (1 Chronicles 29:14).

God loves cheerful givers because they demonstrate **His nature of generosity!** Interestingly, the Greek word for **“loveth”** in **“God loveth a cheerful giver”** is *agapao*—a giving love as seen in John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son...”* What does God give to cheerful givers whom He loves? **God gives them joy.** *“Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy”* (1 Chronicles 29:9). Jesus taught, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive”* (Acts 20:35). **God gives them an abundant return.** Jesus explained this in Luke 6:38, **“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over...”** Someone said, “If we give grudgingly, wondering how much we can spare, we will never have the joy of discovering how much we can share!”

I plan to speak on **“A Cheerful Giver”** this Sunday, December 7, at 10:45 a.m. and I invite you to hear this message.

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