

Hilarious Givers

Rick Durst
May 16, 2021

2 Corinthians 8 & 9

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful [hilarious] giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV

Cheerful givers give hilariously.
They give even when funds are short
They give what they can and more.
They know when to sacrifice and do it with joy.
They volunteer for the privilege of giving.

Steps to Cheerful Giving

1. Find something so big to CARE about, that you'd feel like giving even when your funds are short.

"Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity." 2 Cor. 8:2 NIV

I will base my generosity on what's in my heart not what's in my wallet or purse.

2. Whenever there is opportunity to give, put YOURSELF in the offering plate first.

"And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will." 2 Cor 8:5

Since God is going to cover whatever I am short, I need to give what He wants, when He wants, as long as He wants.

3. Decide to be EXCELLENT in every part of the Christian life.

"But just as you excel in everything- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in love- see that you also excel in the grace of giving." 2 Cor. 8:7

4. Let Christ's POVERTY, make you WEALTHY.

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." 2 Cor 8:9

*"...for all have sinned and **fall short** of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Romans 3:23-24*

With Christ as my Boss, I can't come up short. Ever!

5. TITHE to prove paycheck to paycheck that God keeps His promises.

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he doesn't have." 2 Cor. 8:12 "Bring the whole tenth into the storehouse... Test me in this, 'Says the Lord Almighty,' and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven, and pour out so much blessing that you will not have enough room for it." Malachi 3:10 NIV

God will not be my debtor. I can not out give God.

6. Understand the purpose of God's PROVISION.

"He that gathered much did not have too much, and he that gathered little did not have too little." 2 Cor. 8:15

Heaven's welfare reform plan: work, give, save and trust God. Remember to say "grace" over enough.

7. Avoid financial fantasy, by living GENEROUSLY.

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

I will base my getting on my giving, not my giving on my getting.

8. Always have more than enough, by always giving FAITHFULLY to God's work.

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Cor. 9:8

God will give us our daily bread. We will not need more than 90% to live daily.

9. Never underestimate the POWER of your giving.

"He has scattered his gifts abroad to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." 2

Cor. 9:9 "your generosity results in thanksgiving" 2 Cor. 9:11 "This service not only

supplies the needs of the saints..." 2 Cor. 9:12 "... men will praise God..." 2 Cor. 9:13

"... in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you..." 2 Cor. 9:14

The return on kingdom investment is eternal.

10. Document your confession of Christ by MATCHING your lips with your living and giving.

"... the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Jesus Christ..." 2 Cor. 9:13

I will make sure my check book confesses my faith in Jesus.

My Next Step today is to...

☐ _____.