

Comfort Food for the Soul

Comfort By Giving 2 Corinthians 8-9

for Children:

Try playing with your bouncy ball by closing it up in your fist. You can move your hand around, but if the ball never leaves or bounces it's no fun. How are bouncy balls meant to be used? You have to let go of them!

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. How are seeds supposed to be used? You plant them and they grow - the more you plant, the more that grows. The money that God gives us is like the ball and the seeds. We have to let go of it for it to be useful. And God will teach us when & how best to let go of our money. If we trust God by first giving Him a portion of it, he promises that we will always have enough.

Weekly Memory Verse:

"the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows generously will also reap generously."

2 Corinthians 9:6

for the Mature Christian:

Read Genesis 14:17-20. Before the commandment of a tithe was given by Moses, Abraham recognized that returning to God a portion of all he had been blessed with was the right thing to do. So we learn that bringing offerings to the Lord is an eternal principle.

Now read Hebrews 7:11-19. The author of Hebrews is explaining how Jesus has permanently become both Priest & King for God's people (like Melchizedek, but better!). But with the permanent change of priesthood came a permanent change of law. The old commandment of tithing was out, what is the new law?

In Christ we are under the law of freedom (Rom. 8:2; Gal. 6:2; James 1:25, 2:12; 1 Pet. 2:16). Understanding the freedom we have under God's grace should move us beyond giving only ten percent, and beyond thinking of giving only in a financial sense. Prayerfully consider how your giving can reflect the growth of your trust in God and the understanding of His grace.

for the Growing Christian:

Read through these scriptures which tell of how richly God blesses us spiritually: Ephesians 1:3-8; 2:4-7; Titus 3:5-7; James 1:17-18; Romans 10:12.

As Christians grow in their understanding of how amazing God's gift of forgiveness is, and how much it cost Him, the natural response is the desire to express our thanks in a tangible way. Each week at our assembly, the time of offering is just that.

God Himself does not need our money, and our giving is not some sort of bribe or payment for forgiveness. Rather, it is because we have already been forgiven that we want to give back.

Each Christian gives according to his/her ability so that as a local Body of Christ we can support the spread of the Gospel in our community as well as throughout the world in the missions that we support.

As you spend time in scripture reading and prayer this week, ask God to help you grow in generosity with an attitude of trust and joy.

Weekly Affirmation:

I will give back to God cheerfully!

Recipe

September 2024 Growth Goals

- Read the Book of 2 Corinthians*
- Memorize one of the weekly memory verses*
- Watch the Bible Project video on the Book of 2 Corinthians (available on the website).*
- Seek out a few individuals in your church family or sphere of influence and share with them a comforting promise of God.*