

verb used (Greek) is somewhat different from the normal word "to give" and may suggest something of an imparting or a sharing. Similarly what is translated as "simplicity" in the KJV may also mean "liberally", "fervently" or "with a whole heart". So the idea is very emphatic...if you have something to give, give with a full heart in a confident and earnest way. There is no call for grudging in giving or uncharitable feelings.

As with encouragement, all are expected to participate in this spiritual exercise to some degree. It may become apparent that one has the "gift" in a special way as one participates. But all have something that can be shared and this sharing is what the gift is all about.

We are all familiar with accounts of misers, hoarders, and greedy people (it is always someone else, you know) who lived impoverished lives and used their gain neither for themselves or others. One may reflect on how much good some of these may have done had they enjoyed a sense of giving. But that issue is decided for the individual...the exercise God calls for is one to give.

It must be remembered that salvation is known through personal trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. All the giving in the world will not effect salvation so there is no need to think that by giving we make ourselves presentable to God. But when we are born anew and are seen "in the Son", an attitude of giving becomes us and the lack of any such expression may make one wonder how much salvation really means to a thankless and grudging person. Better to have the more positive involvement and just give.

B. Discussion: The challenge is to learn to give heartily and our observations follow these lines:

1. Giving: what is it?

Broadly stated, giving is the imparting of what you have for the benefit of others. It is not throwing things away or indiscriminately getting rid