

b. 2 Cor. 8:8-15; 9:5, etc. In these verses Paul tells of the importance of a ready mind and the fulfillment of the giving. The blessing is not for what is proposed but for what is done.

c. Galatians 6:6...a particular case of instruction for giving in return for receiving.

d. Phil. 4:15, Acts 3:6, Gal. 2:10, all stress the importance of giving for the realization of our own reward and the care of others.

e. 1 Cor. 16:2-3, The Apostle tells us very specifically when to take up an offering. This would seem to refer to monetary giving which is only one of the things we can give..but a very important one in terms of the Lord's work and testimony.

That the Scripture argues for a generous spirit and a giving heart...that would be hard to deny. We often find ways to care for ourselves almost at the expense of others. That is not the Biblical way.

### 3. Giving: How we go about it.

No doubt the most important thing is to understand that all we have is entrusted to us by God and we are simply stewards. We cannot afford to squander what God gives, we cannot allow ourselves to be greedy regarding it. There must be a sense of commitment to God both of our goods and our persons. We will then note that the giving must accord with our ability. One cannot give what one does not have and what one must do is give in proportion to what one does have. It is pointless to promise vainly what cannot be given. So the believer has to survey what he has before he starts to give.

In addition we need to learn to see and hear needs. If we were more perceptive we would need less reminding but we are often not perceptive. If you see one involved in a work for God try to get a picture of what need may be there and minister to it. We need not be told all the time and everything!

Be open to God...just a little mystical,