

DISCUSSION IDEAS
GIVE, SAVE, LIVE
2 Cor. 8 & 9

January 22nd, 2017

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YOU HAVE JUST BEEN HIRED TO MANAGE SOMEONE ELSE'S MONEY.

How are you going to do that?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: K.I.S.S. it !**

Remember Who owns all we have?

Does it seem overwhelming to be expected to manage that correctly?

How about some simple, basic principles to help?

Like: " Keep It Simple, Sam."

How can we keep the task of properly managing what God has given us SIMPLE? (UNCOMPLICATED? PRACTICAL?)

How about this: " GIVE SAVE LIVE" ?

Today, let's discuss the first one – GIVE.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: GIVE WILLINGLY AND THOUGHTFULLY.**

Keep this perspective: Who really owns my bank account?

IF – God truly owns everything, and if

I am His servant, His steward, so that He chooses to work through me, then

Where does giving fit into this?

Look at Proverbs 3:9–10.

Talk about the idea of "firstfruits".

How does giving affect our attitudes towards others?

How does giving affect our attitudes towards God Himself?

How does giving first, before spending on myself, affect my own outlook?

The Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth regarding a special fund raising to help other believers suffering a famine.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:5-8.

How does willingness honor God?

What part does thoughtfulness play in giving?

How would giving just because we were told that we HAD to affect all this? Does being legalistic really help anyone act in love? Are those who receive a gift affected by our love? (NOTE: we are not just talking about giving to church.)

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: GIVE IN FAITH.**

Talk about what part faith, trusting God to provide, plays in giving.

Discuss the idea that "God has a vested interest in continuing to supply His resources to those who cheerfully give – they are the ones advancing His kingdom. Of course He is going to keep them supplied!"

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT FOUR: GIVE PROPORTIONATELY.**

What does 2 Corinthians 8:12 tell us about "giving proportionately"?

What was Jesus addressing in Luke 12:13–21? Was He criticizing the guy for being rich and prosperous, or for his attitude?

Again, if God intends to show His agape love to the world through us, how important is our attitude?

What is the difference between your giving \$1000/month to God, and your child (or grandchild) giving one dollar a week? IS there any difference?

Regarding all the above: Do we really understand WHO GOD IS and what He has in mind for the world?

♦ **THOUGHTS:**

What do I **NEED** to live on?

How might what I **WANT** be given too much priority?

Did God really entrust me with what I have? How does that idea affect my decisions?

Is just giving of my time enough, or does it help me grow in faith to also give of my possessions?

TO WHOM ARE WE TO GIVE?

Consider the following:

- **TO OUR LOCAL CHURCH**
- **TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS**

This would include missionary organizations and other ministries.

Note that you can check a ministry out via the EFCA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability).

How does our being responsible guide our actions in checking out a recipient?

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- **TO FELLOW BELIEVERS IN NEED**

Keep in mind we are to support fellow believers who are truly in need; we are not to support those who refuse to work. (1 John 3:17; James 2:15-16; Gal. 6:10; Heb. 10:33-34; 13:1-3 with 2 Thess. 3:6-10).

- **TO UNBELIEVERS IN NEED**

Again, how might this draw someone to Jesus?

Does Jesus really love them too? ;-)

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- ♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Pray for the Gettis family as they go through a two-week training session in Portland.

Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there. Pray for Scott and Leslie Stevens as Scott heads up this ministry. Pray for continued growth in understanding among those who attend about God's Plan and what it really means to follow Him.

Pray for our home groups.

Pray for the leaders to grow in understanding and skill so that those in each group will truly grow in their walk in the Spirit and in true agape love.

Pray that more folks will take part in a home group and be encouraged as a result.

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Barangonan Island.

Pray for wisdom and encouragement as both Ingvoldstads and Binders prepare to move off the island. Pray for wisdom, clear understanding of God's Word and continued obedience to the Holy Spirit on the part of the island church leaders.

Praise and continued prayer: Continue to uphold the Tagbanwa believers who go to a neighboring island every Friday to teach about God. Pray too for the hearers to respond.

"Continue to pray for them as there continues to be a solid group listening and interacting with God's Word. We often get to go, and its exciting to see `the body' in action.

"Not only are there teachers, but others go to support and engage this new group who is hearing. If you can believe it, there are even

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some who catch fish for the families who go so they won't miss a meal!

"Continue to pray for strength and endurance for those who go, as well as understanding for those who hear."

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.

Continue to pray for the John and Bobbie Pearson, as they plan with the Wycliffe Director in Spain regarding their involvement, as John completes a living area for his 101 year old mother, and for their son, John Caleb, who is dealing with severe cancer.