

LIFE LESSONS – Making It Live

David Welsh | Understanding Generosity | 2 Cor. 8:1-9, 13 | Apr. 30 & May 1

Giving Gracefully

How would you describe something done gracefully? To me it would be done smoothly and effortlessly. How do you think that dancers, singers and athletes make their presentations seem so graceful? Are they just born with a gift that amazes us all? **Discuss:** Perhaps to some degree, but for the most part that which appears effortless is the result of hours of training, practice and hard work. Share some ways we can become graceful in the sharing of the gifts that God has given us.

Giving Unconditionally

What would you do if you won the lottery or suddenly became wealthy by way of some other windfall? Would you **then** look for persons, ministries and charities to share in your good financial fortune? How is that giving out of your surplus? **Discuss:** God honors our unconditional giving; giving out of what He **has** given us. Do you think that God honors only monetary gifts? Share some other gifts God honors.

Giving Joyfully

Describe the feeling when you contribute to a worthy cause or need. Would you call this feeling joy? **Discuss** what the Bible says about what our attitude should be about giving. (Read II Cor. 9:7). Share a time when you felt truly cheerful about giving money, time, skills, etc. Did you feel under compulsion? What about next time?

Giving Abundantly

What have your parents given you? What have your teachers and professors given you? What has your employer given you? What has God given to you? When we think about it, we have been given PLENTY, most of it unmerited. **Discuss:** Do you think that miserly giving really reflects a trust in God to provide for our needs and wants?

Giving Spontaneously

Do you check your bank balance or the number of paychecks before the mortgage is due before deciding how much you should contribute to a given need? Do you divide a total financial need by the number of contributors to calculate "your share"? **Discuss** how we can listen for what God might be putting on your heart. **Discuss:** I doubt that God is going to tell you to put the deed to the ranch in the offering plate, but He might be urging you to receive a special blessing through generous giving of your money, time, or other resources.

Written by Ed Hooper