

The blessing of giving

Phil 4:14-19

March 14, 2021

Phil 4:14-19 Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction. 15 You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; 16 for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. 17 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. 18 But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. 19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

The Law of reciprocity (sowing and reaping; giving and receiving) (Phil 4:14-19)

The Philippian church was the only church who participated in this principle.

Gal 6:7-10 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

2Cor 9:6-11 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; 9 as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER." 10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; 11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

Paul appreciated the gift - but more so - what it did for them.

Sacrificial giving is an aroma - pleasing to God.

a fragrant aroma = this was a regular Old Testament phrase for a sacrifice which was acceptable to God. It is as if the smell of sacrificial giving is sweet in the nostrils of God (see Gen 8:21; Lev 1:9, 13, 17).

an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

Heb13:16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

God meets the needs of those who give sacrificially.

He makes himself richer, for his own gift opens to him the gifts of God. (Barclay)

God sees and rewards our giving.

Mt 6:19-20 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal."

Mt 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

Lk 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (v. 19)

Note: Our identity and confession as believers in Christ

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me (Phil 4:13).

God will supply all my needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:19).

God is my Father (Phil 4:20).

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with me (Phil 4:23).

Note: Paul's titles for God

1. He is the God of peace

Phil 4:9 ... and the God of peace will be with you. (Rom 15:33; 16:20; 1Cor 14:33; 1Thes 5:23; Heb 13:20)

2. He is the God of hope.

Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (1Tim 1:1; Col 1:27; 2Thes 2:16; 1Pt 1:3, 21)

3. He is the God of comfort

2Cor 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, (2Cor 7:6; 2Thes 2:16-17)

4. He is the God of love

2Cor 13:11 Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. (1Jn 4:8)

References used in this study:

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