

The Year of Sowing

Prayer Guide

Week 18

The Year of Sowing – Finances – We Give with Joy

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)



Prayer Focus: When we understand the true Biblical teaching of sowing the seeds of our finances and our first fruits, we also discover that our giving is accompanied with joy. This kind of joy comes from a heart that does not resent having to give, but rather looks for opportunities to sow the seeds of blessing into the lives of others. Paul tells us that there is a great freedom in this kind of giving. Freedom that comes from hearing from God as to how we are to give. Freedom from giving reluctantly or in response to the pressure of others about how, or how much we should give. This joy comes from a heart that, in cooperation with the Holy Spirit has complete liberty to sow the seeds of blessing into God's Kingdom work, into the lives of those in need, and into the life of the church. This kind of freedom can only come when we understand the Biblical teaching on giving, and live in obedience to God's principles. And Paul tells us that when our hearts are pure and free, and we give with that kind of freedom and joy, God loves it when we give cheerfully. It pleases the heart of God when He sees us giving with a cheerful heart. The opposite is true as well. God's heart is grieved when He sees us give out of pressure or with resentment in our hearts. When a believer is giving as God designed, the believer is filled with joy in giving, and the heart of God is pleased at His obedient children. What a wonderful truth for us to make as our goal, to give cheerfully so that our hearts are glad, and the heart of God is glad at our sowing seeds of blessing into the lives and ministries of others.

Day 1: Let God examine your heart today. Are you giving cheerfully, or are you harboring resentment or giving under pressure?

Day 2: Repent before the Lord for any ways your sowing seeds of finances and first fruits has not been according to the Bible's guidelines.

Day 3: Pray that the Lord will help you to have a heart that is cheerful in your giving.

Day 4: Pray that you and your family will be cheerful givers, finding new ways to sow the seeds.

Day 5: Pray for your church to be filled with those who give cheerfully to the work of the church.

Day 6: Pray that other believers in your city would learn this important Biblical principle.

Day 7: Pray for the missionaries from your church to be supported by people who give their work cheerfully.