

THE JOY OF GIVING AND SACRIFICE

Acts 20.35

HOW DOES GIVING PRODUCE JOY?

2 Corinthians 8.1-15, 9.6-15

In these verses, the Macedonian church is eager to give and be generous, despite their poverty. Why do they find such joy in giving? The Macedonians seem to have really believed Jesus' words, and chose to trust Him and be about the Father's business, entering into the joy of their Master.

- **It is Tied to Our True Identity:** God Himself is a giver. God is sacrificial. And more than that, God Himself *is the Gift* and He *is the Sacrifice*. Therefore, for us to be more and more conformed into the image of Christ (in which we find ultimate joy in becoming more like Him), we must also grow in sacrifice and generosity, as a gift to this world.
- **It is Tied to Our Purpose in Life:** We were saved from the wrath of God, and we were placed in His Kingdom to be His ambassadors, saved *to the mission of God*. We were saved to be spent!

There is nothing more depressing or miserable than being a saved sinner with no perceived purpose.

- **It is a Profound Reminder that God is the One Who Provides:** Giving reminds us that God is in control. It proves that God is first in our life because we are forced to come to terms with His control over our provision and needs. It takes the controls out of our hands and into His.

OUTGIVING LEGALISM, GREED, FEAR, AND CONTROL

We can't out-give God, but we can out-give legalism, greed, fear, control, selfishness, and sin. When we give, it is about the heart, not a number or percentage. Giving is not about "have to," but should be about "get to."

Action Steps and Questions:

- **Give Generously: Are you giving generously?**
 - What does pressing forward in generous sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel and the sake of the nations look like? What's a start?
 - Budget? Do as you can, your heart will follow.
- **Give Sacrificially: Are you giving sacrificially?**
 - Does it hurt a little? Or is it easy?
 - If you aren't giving of time, treasure, or talents, start now. Start small.
 - If you are, consider going a little further.
 - What other steps of faith? Joining a CG? Serving?
- **Give with Thanksgiving:** Are you thankful that you get to give?
 - Do you thank God for His favor? Do you see it as an act of worship?
- **Give Spontaneously:** Do you take opportunities to give unplanned?
- **Give Regularly:** Do you give regularly?
 - Serving, blessing others, regular financial giving, etc.

NOTES:

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Will You Pray With Us?

Follow along with our daily prayer requests by downloading the **PrayerMate App**, available on both **iOS** and **Android** phones. Go to our website for detailed instructions on how to subscribe to the app to be praying with us daily, as well as reading through our **2 Year Bible Reading Plan**.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We'd LOVE for you to fill out the green **Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our teammates in a **Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information. Feel free to grab some food or coffee out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our **Kids on Mission** classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a faithful servant behind each of those examples. Serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! **Fill out a connection card** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll forge friendships, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity is motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call **Life Mission** your home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. Thank you so much!

KIDS ON MISSION

Our **Kids on Mission** ministry has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. Visit our website to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart for the ministry and his walkthrough of our curriculum. For questions about KOM email **Katie McGinty** at katie@lifemission.tv

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

Our **6th - 8th graders** worship with the adults and then head to the junior high room with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our **9th - 12th graders** stay in the service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. Our **High School Ministry meets on Thursday Nights @7PM at Casey & Amy Barnes Home in San Marcos**. For directions and/or questions about our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at casey@lifemission.tv.

VISION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

We want to see God's glory known among the nations, to the least, last, and lost.

MISSION: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

We need to make disciples who make disciples locally and globally, who are saved, equipped, and sent by the Gospel.

STRATEGY: HOW WILL WE DO IT?

By teaching people how to be rooted in the Gospel of God's glory through the Word of God, Prayer, and Gospel Community.

CONTACT US:

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Twitter: @YourLifeMission
[YouTube.com/LifeMissionTV](https://www.youtube.com/LifeMissionTV)

COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Acts 20:35**. What was most impactful from the sermon on Sunday or stuck out to you in these verses? _____

Read **Matthew 6:19-24**. What are the three primary ways we give, sacrifice, and show our generosity? _____

Read **2 Corinthians 8:1-15** and **2 Corinthians 9:6-15**. How does giving produce Joy? _____

Read **Ephesians 1:7-9**, **John 3:16-17** and **1 Peter 1:18-19**. How does knowing, remembering, trusting and believing that God Himself was so generous that He purchased you, with the most valuable "Currency" that there is or ever will be, spur an overflow of generosity in you? How can we stand in His grace and generosity and *not* be moved to be a cheerful giver with our time, treasure, and talents? Don't the two go hand and hand? _____

If you are currently struggling with giving, what are some practical action steps you can take that will help you become a "cheerful giver" and experience more Joy? _____

Look at the sermon notes and read through the **Action Steps** and **Questions**. Which ones stick out to you, challenge you, or encourage you to step out in ways you aren't? _____

What things do you really want to do differently or step out in, and how can those around you help you, encourage you, and hold you accountable? _____

End group and your personal study time with prayer. Pray using the **P.R.A.Y.** model. First, **Preach** the Gospel, reminding yourself and one another of the generosity of our God, who gave His One and Only Son - the ultimate display of generosity. Confess and **Repent** of any sin blocking you from experiencing the joy of being a cheerful giver. Then **Ask** for the Holy Spirit, who is your Helper to continue to increase your generosity through Joy. Ask Him to help you turn to prayer, the Word and your Gospel-centered friendships more. Lastly, **Yield**, with thanksgiving.



LIFE MISSION
C H U R C H

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Making Disciples Who Make Disciples Locally and Globally,
Who are Saved, Equipped, and Sent by the Gospel.



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Acts 20.35 // May 22, 2016

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025



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