


Now let's examine some of the possible pitfalls that the gifted giver may have to deal with.

1. The sacrificial giver may find himself imbalanced and neglect the needs of his family while giving to others. This can cause his family to become resentful toward his generosity.


 **Q.** What does 1 Tim 5:8 say about this?


2. The gifted giver may be susceptible to “get rich quick” schemes or other questionable means of acquiring more money.

 **Q.** According to Prov 28:20, who shall not be innocent?

3. The gifted giver may “cut corners” or skimp on quality when working on projects in order to save money.

4. The gifted giver may put pressure on others to give who do not have the ability to give or who are not lead by God to do so.


 **Q.** According to Acts 11:29, what should every man give according to? _____.

 **Q.** According to 2 Cor 8:12 what must there *first be* before one gives? _____ . It is *accepted according to that a* _____ .

5. The gifted giver may become judgmental toward those who give less.
6. The gifted giver may feel that he deserves privileges or influence because of his gifts.
7. The gifted giver may make decisions based on what appears to be “good business” rather than on God’s will.


The Giver is not always a “rich” person, but oftentimes God does provide wealth for these gifted individuals because he knows he can trust them as stewards of their possessions (Matt 25:20,21). On the other hand, the Giver may not be gifted financially but may give in non monetary ways


As a church we must be thankful for these sacrificial men and women who are sensitive and obedient to God’s leading in the area of giving.

 What would our church be unable to do if it were not for the generosity of gifted givers?


Each of the gifts that we have studied so far has had elements which each Christian should practice, whether they possess that particular gift or not. This is also true regarding this weeks gift – the gift of giving. All Christian men and women are responsible to give of their earthly possessions in order to further the work of God on earth, but there are those whom God has blessed with a special ability to give, and to give liberally.

Just like prophecy, serving, exhorting and teaching, *giving* is a spiritual gift, given by God to certain Christians in order to benefit the entire church (1 Cor 12:7).

 Alternate reading Romans 12:5-8. Romans 12:8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that _____...

 **Q.** What do you think “giving with simplicity” might mean?



When one gives *with simplicity* they are giving without fanfare, they are not looking for recognition and are not making a “big deal” about it. Jesus illustrated this with an extreme word picture in Matthew 6:3..

 Matthew 6:3 But when thou doest alms, _____ .

The gifted giver gives without expecting (or wanting) recognition, he may even go out of his way to remain anonymous.

So far in these studies we have used the occasion of each gift to examine a person in the Bible who possessed that gift. In this study we are going to look at an entire church that possessed the gift of giving!

The Macedonians – A Church of Givers

  Alternate reading 2 Cor 8:1-6 where we find Paul telling the church at Corinth about the Macedonian church and their gift for giving. We will look at their example and draw some conclusions about the person who has the gift of giving.

1. v1 Paul began by stating that the giving nature of the Macedonians was a result of the _____ which God had bestowed (or given) to the church.

It is not financial ability or expertise that makes a gifted giver, like all other gifts, it is the *grace of God* (Rom 12:6) that makes the giver able to give. God has, by his grace, done a special work in the heart of this Christian giving him a sacrificial spirit.

2. v2 Although this church was suffering under great A _____ and were in deep P _____, they had abundant J _____ and gave L _____.

The gifted giver is one who is always “others oriented”. He often thinks of the needs of others even before his own needs. He may not be personally wealthy, or even financially savvy, but he, by the grace of God desires to give and gives freely.

3. v3 These Christians were willing to give even beyond their _____ to do so.

Gifted givers do not need to be coerced into giving. They do not need special promotions or appeals to give, but are *willing of themselves* to give and often wish they had more substance, not for themselves, but so that they could be a blessing to others.

4. v4 Q. What do you think the phrase *Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift* means?

The word *praying* here literally means “to beg”. These Christians were begging Paul to take their gift, even though Paul, recognizing their deep poverty, sought to refuse their gift. Have you ever been offered a gift by someone who refused to take “no” for an answer?

These men and women saw the needs of the church at Jerusalem as an *opportunity* to minister and serve. They wanted to be a part of helping these other Christians even if it meant personal sacrifice.

5. v5 Q. What did these Christians “first give” to the Lord?

The gifted giver is able to give of his earthly goods without hesitation because he has first given *himself* to the Lord. After all, if you have already surrendered all that *you are*, how much easier is it to surrender what *you have!* Notice that they gave themselves first *to the Lord* and then *unto us* (the Apostles). There is an old acrostic that we teach our children J.O.Y. – Jesus, Others, You. The Macedonians discovered that abounding Joy (v2) comes when you give, first to God, then to others, and lastly to yourself.

- Q. v5. By *what* was their giving done? _____.

The gifted giver is sensitive to the leading of God when it comes to his giving. He does not give out of obligation, or routine, but seeks God’s guidance in his giving and is obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit. He gives according to God’s will.

6. v6 Paul desired that the Corinthians would exhibit the “same _____” as the Macedonians.

The gifted giver is often an example and encouragement to others in the area of giving. Paul used the occasion of the Macedonians willingness to give to encourage the Corinthians (v8). The Corinthians had made a pledge to give but had not yet followed through on it (v10,11), the exercise of the gift of giving by the Macedonians served as an example and provocation to the Corinthians to also give.

To summarize, consider the following qualities of a gifted giver as illustrated by the Macedonians. Rate how each of these qualities reflects your personality on a scale from 1-5.

- ___1. The gifted giver is apt to observe the needs of others and to see those needs as opportunities to give.
- ___2. The gifted giver will give even when he might be facing hard times personally.
- ___3. Gifted givers often wish they had more substance for the purpose of giving to others.
- ___4. The gifted giver has a tendency to give even when others feel they are being too generous.
- ___5. The gifted giver sees all of his possessions as belonging to the Lord and therefore finds it easy to pass his earthly things along to others.
- ___6. The gifted giver does not seek public recognition of his giving, but often desires to give anonymously.
- ___7. The gifted giver may be personally frugal in order to free up more resources to give to others.
- ___8. The gifted giver is not covetous but content with the things that he has.
- ___9. The gifted giver often indirectly motivates others to give.