

Extravagant Worship Part 9

Getting To Give

I am so thrilled that I have the opportunity to serve God in this position as pastor of Cornerstone Church. I love it. Often I tell people that Preaching pays the bills so I can serve God. See, **it is not a matter of where I work that makes me a minister, it is always a matter of where I share my life that makes me a minister.** Where I work is my occupation, where I share is my calling can be anywhere. My occupation finances my ministry. Actually, I happen to be a pastor to support my call as a servant of God. God has shared His grace by:

1. The grace extended to us through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins being forgiven by God and having relationship with Him forever more.
2. The grace extended to us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb that gives us the power to overcome sin, distractions and do mighty Spiritual warfare.
3. The grace to be involved in the work of Christ.

The Second Banner of Our Purpose Statement: Sharing

"Sharing our lives"

"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ."

1 John 1:3

Based on 1 John 1:3, we believe that SHARING can be done in two distinct ways:

A. Sharing our lives with God.

B. Sharing our lives with people.

We are called on a mission, we are given authority through:

- The blood of Christ and cross gives us relationship with God
- The empty tomb gives us power over sin
- The Spirit of God gives us authority, power, strength to share this truth with the rest of the world and to show God's love in every way possible.

A Great Reality- I am wealthy and you probably are to. If you make over \$30,000 a year you are in the top 1% of wealth in the world.

Children Die Because of Food Related Deaths: One every five seconds

- **Straton's Story-** Lisa Samson (www.lisasamson.typepad.com), posted a video about a pastor in Rwanda trying to be Jesus to the many people infected with and dying of AIDS. Lisa asked everyone to watch it, to think about it, to pray about it. It is a moving video and it challenges me to my core. Frankly, I don't know how God is asking me to respond, but I know he is.

God never draws us out of bondage that he doesn't also send us on a designated mission. There is not only the potential of having **freedom with Christ** that there is not also a **mission for Christ**. God saves us, restores us, delivers us not just to hang around but to be called

into the priesthood of the believer. **I WAS MEANT FOR THIS MOMENTS!**

- **Giving in America- Here's what we know.** (Giving in America: Tis the Season, By Doug Wilson, Monday, December 18, 2006)
 - We know that America is still the most generous nation in the world.
 - More Americans give money, and give in larger portions, than the citizens of any other country. In fact, Spain, the most generous nation in the European Union, gives less than half the amount of the average American and volunteers 80 percent less often.
 - We know that about **90 percent** of those who **regularly attend a church, synagogue, or mosque** give an average of **\$2,210 per year**, based on a median **salary of \$49,000**. Such people total about **one hundred million American citizens**.
 - We also know that there are the **seventy million Americans** who **do not attend** religious services. They give an **average of \$642 per year**.
 - We also know that **generosity cuts across political lines**. Republican or Democrat, it doesn't matter. The key variable is religious participation.

Our participation in the greater giving is greater purpose- a since of missional responsibility. What pulls us together is indisputable: Giving to a higher call and in doing so we are able to answer the big questions of life, "Why we are here" and "What are we here to do."

Arthur Brooks, a top scholar of economics and public policy, has spent years researching the American trend of giving in America, and even he was surprised by what he found. His book is called, *Who Really Cares: The Surprising Truth about Compassionate Conservatism*. (Basic Books (November 27, 2006) **ISBN-10: 0465008216**)

Brooks notes that Americans still believe that the private sector should be active in solving the problems facing our society. He compares us to:

- Asia- Which has the reputation of taking care of the family as means of charity
- Europe- Which has a reputation of looking to the state to deliver "charity"

In his book, Brooks notes that America has a reputation of taking care of the stranger as a means of charity and that this passion or since of call to do so roots from a connection to the words of Christ and the story of the Good Samaritan in the Gospel of Luke for taking care of a stranger met on the road as if he were family. There is something that permeates America that is under attack and if there is a move of God in America, I personally believe that we have got to become more missional in our objectives and more compassionate in our service. This "caring for a stranger...", as one reviewer stated it, "...quickly began to distinguish America from Europe and other cultures."

"We Aren't About Weekends"- There is an incredible article that I read this week has greatly influenced this message entitled, **"We Aren't About Weekends"** in Leadership Journal Magazine (Winter 2007). I don't think that the article was so powerful in that it influenced my thinking but in that it was so clear that it helped to help define areas that God was trying to define in my heart about my role as a pastor and the direction of our church. What I believe

God as His calling on us here at Cornerstone Church is “**Not All About Weekends**”.

Mega Ministries- The new art of crowds and the lost art of service. Brilliant crowd, dismal community!

- I want to ask you a question today, “**Why are you SHARING your life through your giving and service in this church?**” Or another question is,
- “**Where are you sharing your life through your giving and time for God?**” What would your answer be?
- If I asked you this question, “**What is keeping you from finding your place in sharing your life with God and with others?**”

The Count of Monte Cristo (Movie clips to show or tell- preachingtoday.com)

Set-up: *The Count of Monte Cristo* tells the story of Dantes, who is unjustly accused and sentenced to life in France's most dreaded prison. After 13 years he escapes, becomes wealthy, and then seeks revenge on those who ruined his life. Through-out the movie Dantes struggles deeply with his belief in God, moving from a simple faith to a loss of faith, and finally to a mature faith.



During his years in prison, Dantes makes friends with a priest whose godly influence has great impact on Dantes' spiritual understanding. Together they dig a tunnel to escape, but just before it's completed, a cave-in injures the priest.

As he lies dying on the stone floor of his cell, the priest gives Dantes a treasure map that he'd hidden all his years in prison, which later makes /Dantes wealthy. But it's the priest's final words that stick with Dantes forever.

Scene:

- “When they asked me about the treasure of Sparta, I lied,” the priest confesses.
- “You lied?” Dantes asks.
- “I'm a priest, not a saint.” [Then the priest tells Dantes how to use the map to find the hidden treasure.]
- “When you escape,” the priest continues, “use the treasure for good. Only for good.”
- “No,” Dantes says angrily. “I will surely use it for my revenge.”
- “This is your final lesson. Do not commit the crime- [the priest struggles for a breath]- do not commit the crime for which you now serve the sentence. God said, 'Vengeance is mine.’”
- “But I don't believe in God,” Dantes says.
- “It doesn't matter,” the priest responds with a smile. “He believes in you.”

Three Key Words

I want to began this portion of the message sharing with you three important words that I will be repeating throughout this message, and for clarity I want to define them for you so you will know what I am talking about. I hope these three words will resound in your heart like they are mine and you will forever be changed because of what God is

speaking to your heart about.

1. **Missional**
2. **Glocal**
3. **Connectual**

Missional- The word *missional* has been in the dictionary for 100 years, defined in the 1907 Oxford English dictionary as something that is of, or pertaining to, missionaries. It is a philosophy of ministry where followers of Christ become a counter-culture or an intentional sub-culture to interact and eventually influence and change the existing culture. In church we use different terms for the word “missional” such as missionaries, outreach, evangelism and Kingdom builders. But today I want us to have a common word for all of those different words, “*missional*”.

What does it mean to be Missional?

What does it mean to be a community of Jesus’ apprentices who are pursuing true spiritual maturity? There is no end to the ways we can be blessed to carry out the missional call because God is able and willing to make all grace abound toward us that we can abound in every good work.

Redeeming Truth

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

II Corinthians 9:8

Glocal- Thomas Friedman’s Book, *The World is Flat*, refers to our world today as having a recurring theme of glocalization, that there seems to be a seamless integration between the local and the global through travel, business and communications. Glocal means the kingdom of God encompasses all of this, local and global, we must stop seeing our influence for the Kingdom of God severed by borders, political differences and economic availability.

Connectual- This is our call and ability to be a connection center in three ways between our corporate group of believers at Cornerstone Church and all the connecting points of our society, be that local or global. The three ways we will connect is through **Multidimensional**: In every facet of sharing ourselves with God and with others, **Supernatural**: Unending potential, not limited by distance, finances or strength, **Individual** giftedness.

Missional Community

I like the definition of a missional community defined by Jason Zahariades,

“A missional community is a group of Jesus’ apprentices who so trust his brilliance and mastery of life, that they learn from him how to be like him for the sake of the world.”

A good question to ask is: **Are all churches missional?** The purpose of this question is not to create a superior image of ourselves or a poor picture on others, there is only one body of Christ, (Romans 12:4-5), no matter how many denominations or non-

denominational churches you have. And we don't get to pick the validity of them, God does, but he does give us a picture of what some of them look like- they have fruit. There are many different expressions of how that body is supposed to look. **We understand that our objective is not about us, (Cornerstone Church), being against them, (other churches), but that it is Christ's church meeting in various denomination and non-denominational forms with an idea of a mission and cause. Basically, every church that I know of believes that they are sent on a mission.** But there is obviously a difference between one church and another, and **you will discover a significant difference between one church that has missions and one with a missional call.** What lies between between these churches is a theological foundation which is eventually expressed through their practices and organizational decisions.

- **Ecclesiology-** The theological difference begins at what theologians call ecclesiology. **Ecclesiology is simply one's understanding of what the church is.** Every church has a built-in ecclesiology, whether it has been thought through or not.

A missional ecclesiology is rooted in God's character and purpose as a sending or "**Missional God**". Therefore, it's starting point is the missional nature of **The Trinity**.

- **God the Father sent the Son. (John 3:16)**
- **God the Father and the Son sends the Spirit. (Luke 11:13; Acts 10:45)**
- **God the Father, the Son and the Spirit sends the Church** (Matthew 28:18-20; John 20:21; Acts 1:8). The church is God's sent missional people. So just as Jesus was the fullness of God incarnated and embodied in a human being, the missional church follows Jesus' model, learning from him how to embody the fullness of God as a new way of being human for the sake of the world. That is it's very identity and essence.



Flags of Our Fathers- Clint Eastwood recently made a movie called "Flags of Our Fathers." The story is about a man who tries to reconstruct the events of his father's involvement as one of the five Marines and Navy corpsman who on February 1945, 62 years ago, raised the American flag on Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima at the end of World War II. The event is now part of the historical portrait known to almost everybody.

A week ago I was talking to my mother who relayed that was one of those men was related to her. I have no idea who he was and my mom knew little more.

The flag raising was something that just happened. For these guys it was probably no different than you opening up your car door or turning on the hot water for a shower. What was usual to them was the camaraderie that they had among themselves. There was a job that needed to get done and so they did it. They didn't look at giftings or tenures, nor did they



spend all their time of the best rock to place it. They said raise the flag and they raised the flag, job done.

Getting To Give: We want to be free from debt, don't we? We want to be free to live and give generously, but it takes some very hard work. Today we are challenged to trust God's goodness through our own disciplined living and trust God's ability to provide in every circumstance. We were made to live a full life of worship, giving to God everything that we have.

"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

John 8:36

Off The Side Of The Road- The New Testament tells us that we can actually take this freedom and misuse it in three ways:

1. We can **tolerate sin** because of freedom. (Romans 6:15-18)

*"What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that **when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey- whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?**"*

Romans 6:15-16

- **The key is not only to stop being a slave to sin, the key is to start being a slave to righteousness!** Too often we are lost inbetween. Being righteous is not a life full of don'ts, it is a life full of get to's.
- There are events that occur in our life when we come to Christ that gives us pretty immediate transformation. But, when it comes to the point of obedience to the love of God in our lives, we are not only to refrain from our sin but to respond to righteousness

"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

John 8:36

Free for what?

- **Free to be forgiven? Yes, but there's more**
- **Free from the burden of sin and the baggage that comes with it? Yes, but there is more**
- **Free to overcome sin that I might face on a daily basis? Yes, but there's more**
- **What is it then?**
 - **Free to obey God in acts of righteousness.**

"But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness."

Romans 6:17-18

The picture that is often drawn and the conclusion that we can draw from this passage is often misconceived. Does it say here is that, "...thanks be to God... I am no longer a slave!" Doesn't it? No! This is the furthest thing from the truth. You just switched masters!

I like how **Brian McLaren** describes this in *The Story We Find Ourselves In*. By calling Jesus Lord or Teacher, we are recognizing that he is a “master,” someone to whom we apprentice ourselves to in order to learn everything he knows and does. He’s similar to a master craftsman or a violin master. McLaren states:

A violin master is someone who can take an instrument of wood and wire and horsehair and play it so it yields music more beautiful than anyone else can play. And for the disciples to call Jesus ‘master’ would mean that no one else could take the raw materials of life – skin and bone and blood and space and time and words and deeds and waking and sleeping and eating and walking – and elicit from them a beautiful song of truth and goodness, as Jesus did. Brian McLaren, (*The Story We Find Ourselves In* (San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2003), 121)

Why many believed that they could tolerate sin here in Romans 6 is because **they honestly were no longer slaves to sin, this is true, but in reality, they had never become enslaved to righteousness. They would tolerate things that was questionable, or engage in things that they knew was probably not a “bad” sin. But they had never really submitted their LIFE to Jesus as Lord, they had only submitted their SOUL to Jesus as Savior.**

“I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

Romans 6:19

“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

John 8:36

What does this mean?

- This means that if you have short bursts of inspiration that causes you to involve yourself somehow in service disciplines that are one time events, then you might want to review if you are really free. See in one area Christ sets us free of Satan's entanglement of sin. But we have to set ourselves free of our own entanglement of a self serving life. In my personal home, serving is not a choice, it is part of our freedom and it exposes who is Lord. When it comes to serving God in your life, if **commitment** would not be a word you would use to describe your participation, then you might want to evaluate who you are really serving.

“But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, the result is eternal life.

Romans 6:22

How does this play out?

- If I asked you this question, “Why are you serving where you are serving?” What would your answer be?

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our

Lord.”
Romans 6:23

1. We can **tolerate sin** because of freedom. (Romans 6:15-18)

2. We can **indulge in sin** because of freedom. (Galatians 5:13-14)

“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
Galatians 5:13-14

3. We can **cover-up our sin** with our freedom. (I Peter 2:15-16)

“For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.”
I Peter 2:15-16

List of Giving Opportunities

Recently, I attended a meeting in which the guest speaker had the opportunity to toot his own horn. The minimum cost to host the monthly banquet was \$1500 which helped subsidize everyone else's meal and paid some extra costs. Obviously, the success of this company in our community was portrayed by how many people they were marketing to. (Radio Station- Five Different Stations) What impressed me was that after a few minutes of his regular company introduction and recognitions, he stopped and said, “What I really want to talk about is what makes me really excited.” On our tables was a brochure where half of it described all of the services this particular business has to offer. But the second half of the brochure, (to which he was alluding to at this point in his speech), was all of the area foundations and non-profit services that his company had contributed to over the past year. Among those listed, three of the forty plus groups was the Emaus house, United way and “Make a Wish” foundation. His brief reflection on the importance of giving back to his community was more than a pat-me-on-the-back speech. He backed it up with action. He had asked the director of the “Make A Wish Foundation” from Wichita, KS. To come in and finish out his time. I figured of the 45 minutes he had to share, he only took of a few more than 15 minutes of it. I was impressed.

As I took the brochure home and looked over the list I was shocked to see how many groups are equally asking for our gifts and funds and equally deserving. I also realized that we have been challenged at Cornerstone Church to develop yet another type of non-profit service to our community. I was challenged with the thought, with so many opportunities in our community to give and serve in, why should we try to start up another one? Three Answers:

1. **We believe God personally told us to as a Fellowship of Believers.** Really I wish I had a big visitation of an angel who stood at the base of my bed one night and called my name out loud. But I didn't, I had a tug at my heart with this and the tug has never left me. As I had presented this to the elders they have sensed that tug as well.
2. **We believe God's Word tells us to corporately as a Mission Statement.** Really it's

undeniable. With the scriptures so clear on this point, it's a no brainer, we had better do it we wouldn't want to miss this opportunity for anything.

3. **We believe Our Community is waiting for us to as an Open Door.** In all reality, churches loose sight of the mission of God. God died for this community, not just a handful of people who love to huddle together on Sundays. Our community wants to believe Christianity is real, but they don't see it in action very often. I think we are good in care giving at the hospital and for the sick at times, but for the most part, there's a bigger picture, and we need to take our part in it.

I've wondered about two things the individual shared at the banquet that was in the brochure,

- First, "What makes our act of good works any better than anyone else's?" It's important to answer that question and I can. **It's not about being better than anyone else, it's about being obedient and affective with what God has called us to.** It is finding opportunity to give in a way that is measurable and eternal.
- Second, "Why should anyone give to our cause rather than some other cause?" **Truth is, not everyone will give to this cause, but everyone should give to a cause to assist the poor and needy. Giving to our outreach ministry will not make you that much more "spiritual," but it can make you more encouraged to give because you have a first hand in seeing what takes place with those funds. It also is part of our collective and corporate vision. This is not optional**
- **Missional Opportunities**
 - LIFE Groups-
 - Out Reach Center-
 - Community Garden-
 - Missions

Privilege- The opportunity that God has given us to be apart of His plan is the greatest opportunity that anyone could ever have. Can you imagine that of all the people in the world, God chose you and I to be a city on a hill, a light that cannot be put under a basket.

Great Reality

"Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them."

Revelation 20:11

"And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books."

Revelation 20:12

"The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done."

Revelation 20:13

"Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into

the lake of fire.”
Revelation 20:14-15

3 Characteristics of a Missional Apprentice

*“As it is written: “He has scattered **abroad** his gifts to the poor; **his righteousness endures forever.**”*
II Corinthians 9:9

1. **He Freely Gives To The Poor**

Verse 9. He scattered abroad- Paul is quoting Psalms 112:9 here.

The Message puts it this way:

“He throws caution to the winds, giving to the needy in reckless abandon.”
II Corinthians 9:9 (*The Message*)

Our reckless abandon is given among *strangers, either around us or abroad.* The picture is that we understand the principle of giving as a spiritual dynamic of an extravagant worshiper.

Giving to the poor does not make us righteous, but giving to the poor is evidence that God has established His abounding grace in your heart and that you are content in loving people less fortunate and less capable of receiving love. Giving to the poor is an act of righteousness.

Jesus taught that our simplest act of worshipful expression through giving would not go unrewarded.

“And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

Matthew 10:42

*He who oppresses the **poor** shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.*

Proverbs 14:30-32

“He who mocks the poor shows contempt for their Maker; whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished.”

Proverbs 17:4-6

*“He who is kind to the **poor** lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.”*

Proverbs 19:16-18

*“If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the **poor**, he too will cry out and not be answered.”*

Proverbs 21:12-14

*“A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the **poor.**”*

Proverbs 22:8-10

*“He who gives to the **poor** will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them*

receives many curses.”
Proverbs 28:26-28

3 Characteristics of a Missional Apprentice

First: He Freely Gives To The Poor

2. He Knows That His Giving Has Eternal Affect

*“As it is written: “He has scattered **abroad** his gifts to the poor; **his righteousness endures forever.**”*

II Corinthians 9:9

He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor

If I were to ask you if you were a righteous man or woman, you would probably say that the blood of Jesus has given you the ability to be righteous. You might say, “Yes, I’m righteous because He has made me righteous.” But this scripture indicates that an everlasting righteousness will be established for the person who understands the principle of giving...to the poor abroad. Forever, in the mind of God these acts will draw His attention as acts of the righteous.

In acting kindly and graciously toward the poor should not only be a “humbling experience”, though you might realize how fortunate you are or how difficult life might be for them. Your free scattering to the poor should be a gracious expression of the love of God in your own life! The abounding grace of God explodes from you, in your smile, in your giving, through your prayers and in your everyday living.

3 Characteristics of a Missional Apprentice

First: He Freely Gives To The Poor

Second: He Knows That His Giving Has Eternal Affect

3. He Knows That He Can't Out Give God

*“Now he who supplies **seed** to the sower and **bread** for food **will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.**”*

II Corinthians 9:10

Verse 10. Now he supplies seed to the sower

Leader of The Choir: He that *ministers*, or “*who supplies seed*” is also defined as, “*he who leads up the chorus.*” Here the idea is that God is the director of the choir or orchestra, who hears the cry of one in the wilderness of their life, they may be lost, they may not even know God, but their cry is one of openness toward heaven that catches the ear of God.

Seed and Bread

Both are supplied by God. The picture here is chorus of people standing in a field preparing to sow or broadcast the field with seed. Two

things are given to the sowers to accomplish this task. First the seed itself is given to each individual so they can complete the task of sowing. The field is large and it takes many to get the job done in the season that it needs to be sown. Secondly the director provides bread so that those sowing in the field does not become weary in “well”/good doing. Row after row the seed is cast out among the field.

Store and Enlarged Harvest

1990- After ten years of youth ministry I knew that God was moving my heart for something new. I was satisfied pastoring youth for the rest of my life, that was no problem for me, but something was taking place in my heart. I knew change was in the air and I just didn't know what the change was. In that period of time I would go once a year and fast and pray in a canyon near the town where I grew up as a boy.

For seven days I prayed and fasted and to be honest all I got was hungry. It was so difficult to hear God or find direction. I screamed, I cried, I prayed, took long walks. I did everything I could possibly do to hear God for direction for my life. Finally the last day came and I remember sitting under the shade of an old cotton wood tree in my lounge chair with my Strong's Concordance, books, bible and a stack of resources at my feet. I was sitting in a pool of knowledge and for seven days I couldn't get one drop of inspiration.

With the last few minutes left, I cried out to God and asked Him to show up because I was going to leave. Immediately he gave me spiritual thoughts or insight that has lasted my whole life long.

I saw myself as a child, maybe three or four years old sitting in my dad's lap as we plowed a field near a country house I was familiar with. I could see that I really thought I was driving the tractor, but of course my dad had control all the time. But, the field was getting plowed.

In a split second I saw myself a little older, I was maybe six or seven again sitting in my dad's lap on a tractor and I was actually driving the tractor with my dad guiding my hands when necessary. Quickly my thoughts displayed me at 12 or 13, driving the tractor by myself plowing a field near the house. Again a flash of thought and I was 18 standing in the house asking what He wanted me to do. The last picture was me standing in my dad's presence. I was probably in my 20's now. My dad looked at me and said, “Son, you know what needs to be done, just go and do it.” He left it up to me. I was assured at that moment that my father would redirect me as needed, but He knew I was committed to do the job, a job that needed to get done and I knew what it was.

All of that took place in a matter of a minute or so, but to this day I no longer wrestle with God's direction in my life. I know what the business is and I am committed to it.

Something else happens. This chorus leader wants to do two other things. He will supply and increase your store of seed and secondly enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. In the first portion of scripture God gives seed and bread to

complete the task required of the first field. But now the chorus leader “will”, supply and increase your store of seed. In other words, the store house or holding place of seed that the chorus leader was drawing from to provide seed for you, he has created one for you.

Often we take on the responsibility

So God leads His grand choir by providing the seed to the the sower. God gives us certain opportunities, abilities and skills to harvest the seed and disperse it. God loves to give seed. He wants to have a huge, bountiful harvest in your life not so you are blessed as much as you become a blessing.

Why Does God Want To Give Us So Much?

“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

II Corinthians 9:11

- ***So that you can be generous on every occasion***
- ***So your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God***

Four Perceptions Drawn From The Acts of A Giver (Vs. 12-15):

1. It Is Perceived As Extravagant Worship By God!

*“This **service** that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also **overflowing** in many expressions of thanks to God.”*

II Corinthians 9:12

Your giving not only supplies the needs of the God's people, but also is abounding, overflowing in many expressions to God. Your giving is a confession that GOD IS ABLE! GOD IS ABLE! GOD IS ABLE! You defy your fears to hold on to things because you are afraid God will not show up. You defy your flesh to be afraid of what other people think and what you look like. You defy the pressure around you to be selfish and self centered, self absorbed.

All that God gives me is a supply to sow and make bread that I might have an abundant opportunity to give that in every giving away I am screaming, shouting worship to God!

2. It Is Perceived That You Are Who You Say You Are!

*“Because of the **service** by which you have **proved yourselves...**”*

II Corinthians 9:13a

People will no longer be consumed with their needs but with the giver of those needs. We must be careful today because there is a revival of humanitarian aid being given in the United States. This act of generosity could be inspired by none other than Satan himself. If the Christian's vacates this ministry, it would be nothing for Satan to pick it up and turn men's eyes from a loving God to a liberal, anti-Christ man. I believe that our giving to the poor and needy in the

next few years will determine why people will go to heaven and to hell.

It's important to feel that you were made for this, but also you are who you think you are!

3. It Is Perceived As Worthy of Extravagant Worship to God by Men!

“Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God...”

II Corinthians 9:13b

You become contagious. Your outward of expression of praise through giving is seen by men to prove that you are a Christian and that you are motivated by the love of God and they know you are not part of this world. Men just don't do that. But you cause them to go nowhere but to God themselves and give Him extravagant worship.

4. It Is Perceived As Worthy of Extravagant Prayer By Man For You!

“Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.”

II Corinthians 9:13

“And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

II Corinthians 9:14-15

Your act of extravagant worship is expressed in giving to the poor and it is perceived as:

1. Extravagant Worship By God From You
2. You Are Who You Say You Are
3. A Reason For Extravagant Worship By Men To God
4. Worth of Extravagant Prayer By Man For You.

Your acts of Worship by giving to others causes people to be your personal intercessors for you. There will always be a place in their hearts for you, when you do something stupid or odd there will be an extended grace for you in their heart. They will fight for you! What a cool blessing, you gave beans and they raise up their sword of the Spirit against the demons that want to surround your life and choke the life out of you. But they yell, “Satan, take your hand off my friend in the Name of Jesus!”

Can you afford to not give to the poor?

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

II Corinthians 9:14-15

More Scriptures and Statistics

James 2:2-4 (New International Version)

2Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes,

and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. 3If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," 4have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

James 2:5-7 (New International Version)

5Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? 6But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? 7Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

Revelation 3:16-18 (New International Version)

16So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

- **Eternity Without God**

The flashing blue or red light on top of an emergency vehicle is a signal of need: The emergency could be a fire, a crime, or a person in physical duress. Whenever you see the flashing light, you know there is a need. The flashing light is symbolic of something else too. The speed at which the light flashes is approximately the average rate in which people are dying and going to hell. That's about 1.7 people every second.

Of course, there is no way of accurately knowing how many people are dying and going to hell. Only God knows for certain. We can, however, make some general calculations based on facts we do have. There are many very extensive studies that breakdown the religious beliefs of the world. When you compare these belief systems with the Bible you have a good idea how many people believe in the Biblical plan of salvation. According to these studies, 7% of the world's population has accepted the Biblical plan of salvation. Even if this research is wrong and 75% of the world is going to Heaven, that still means that 40 thousand people are going to Hell every day. Clearly, any way you look at it, there is still a tremendous amount of work that needs to be done. (*The raw data and the calculations can be found at the end of the chapter.*)

Following is how the numbers add up:

1.72 per second
103 per minute
6198 per hour
149 thousand per day
54.3 million per year
3.8 billion per average lifetime (70 years)

- As with any statistic, it is easy to forget each number represents a person, an eternal soul, someone just like you. Although we cannot fully comprehend it, God has a personal and deep love for each person. The harvest truly is great and the laborers are few. Hosea 4:6 says, "For a lack of knowledge, my people perish."
- As of January 2007, there were 6.68 billion people in the world. Therefore, about 58 million people will probably die this year. Listed below is how this number breaks down:
 - 1.84 per second
 - 110 per minute
 - 6,611 per hour
 - 159 thousand per day
 - 58 million per year
 - 4.05 billion per average lifetime (70 years)
- % of the world's population which will die this year (as of 2006): .867%
- # of the non-believers who will die this year: 54.3 million
- # of seconds in a year 31,536,000
- # of the non-believers who will die each second 1.72
- **By Wade Martin Hughes, Sr.- Kyfingers@aol.com**

• **WHY DO PEOPLE SERVE THE LORD AND ATTEND CHURCH?**

Here is the findings of one survey of 14,000 people who had attended church on a regular basis:

- 03% just walked into a church
- Between 2% to 4% attend a church because of it's programs
- Christmas plays, Easter Cantata's, Youth and Children
- Between 3% to 5% attend because they liked the Pastor.
- Between 2% to 3% attend because they had a special need.
- Divorce, financial problems, counseling, etc.
- Between 1% to 2% attend because of a visitation program.
- Between 3% to 5% attend because of a thriving Sunday School.
- Around .001% attend because they started during a Crusade/Revival.
- BETWEEN 70% TO 90% ATTEND BECAUSE THEY WERE INVITED BY A FRIEND OR RELATIVE.

THE MOST EFFECTIVE WEAPONS AGAINST HELL ARE THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

OUR MISSION FIELD is going **GLOCAL!**