

<p style="text-align: center;">PASSION-DRIVEN GIVIN’ Message Four: Giving Passionately for Relationships</p>
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INTRODUCTION:

First, let’s review again the principles of *Passion-Driven Givin’*. *Passion-Driven Givin’* proposes that there are 10 reasons to give God 10%:

- Five Practical Reasons Are:
 - Tithing Fulfills God’s **Plan**
 - Tithing Fuels God’s **Passion**
 - Tithing Frees God’s **Personnel**
 - Tithing Finances God’s **Property**
 - Tithing Facilitates God’s **Programs**

- Five Purposeful Reasons Are (The S.W.O.R.D.):
 - We Should Give as a **Service** to God
 - We Should Give as **Worship** of God
 - We Should Give for **Outreach** to Others
 - We Should Give for **Relationships** with Others
 - We Should Give to **Disciple** God’s People

In this fourth message, we shall consider why we should give passionately in light of our “relationships” with God and others. It’s all about “loving God and loving others.”

PROPOSITION:

- I. **WE SHOULD PASSIONATELY GIVE TO OUR CHURCH BECAUSE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR SAVIOR. 2. Cor. 5:12-21.**

¹²For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have an answer for those who boast in appearance and not in heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. ¹⁶Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

A. Christ **Paid** a Debt for Me I Cannot **Repay**. Rom. 5:6-11.

⁶For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

B. Christ **Provokes** a Desire In Me I Cannot **Repress**. Phil. 3:7-11.

⁷But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

C. Christ **Prompts** a Devotion In Me I Cannot **Restrain**. Gal. 6:4.

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

II. WE SHOULD PASSIONATELY GIVE TO OUR CHURCH BECAUSE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SAINTS. 2. Cor. 8:1-15.

¹Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: ²that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. ³For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, ⁴imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. ⁵And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. ⁶So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. ⁷But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.

⁸I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. ¹⁰And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; ¹¹but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. ¹²For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have. ¹³For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; ¹⁴but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality. ¹⁵As it is written, “He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.”

A. My Passionate Giving Demonstrates My Relationship with the Saints. Vss. 3-5.

³For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, ⁴imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. ⁵And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

B. My Passionate Giving Illustrates My Relationship with the Saints. Vss. 6, 7.

⁶So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. ⁷But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.

C. My Passionate Giving ***Facilitates*** My Relationship with the Saints. Vss. 8-15.

⁸I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. ¹⁰And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; ¹¹but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. ¹²For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have. ¹³For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; ¹⁴but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality. ¹⁵As it is written, “He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.”

APPLICATION:

1. Do I truly contemplate the debt Christ paid for me- the debt I could never pay on my own?
2. Is there a desire in me- a “fire in my soul”- that I cannot repress? Do I feel I MUST give to God?
3. Is my devotion to Christ so intense that I will give up material things to express it?
4. I say that I care about my Christian relationships. Is this evident in the way I give to my church? Does my giving *demonstrate* my relationship with others?
5. If everyone gave the way I do, what would my church be like? What could we accomplish in the way of ministry?
6. Do I understand that my giving helps facilitate my relationships by underwriting meaningful purposes and a significant vision that I share with my brothers and sisters in Christ?