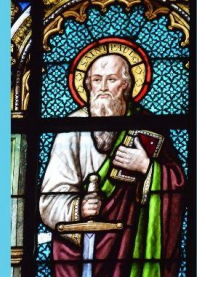




Finding Purpose in Unexpected Places: The Story of Paul



www.elim.family/paul

Sowing Seeds of Blessing: The Power of Tithing and Generosity

Read 2 Corinthians 8 and 9

Listen to the Message 'Sowing Seeds of Blessing: The Power of Tithing and Generosity' (21st July 2024) at www.elim.family/media

In this sermon, Ps. Jim discusses the importance of giving, tithing, and generosity from a biblical perspective, emphasizing that these principles can transform our approach to money and lead to God's blessings. Despite the widespread abuse of this topic in some Christian circles, it remains a crucial subject as demonstrated by Jesus and Paul's teachings on money.

In this message Ps. Jim underscores the neutrality of money, which can lead to both good and evil, and stresses the importance of a generous spirit. Paul's letters, particularly 1 Timothy 6:10-12 and 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, provide a foundation for understanding the right attitude toward money, urging believers to pursue righteousness and generosity. The Macedonian churches' example of giving despite extreme poverty challenges us to evaluate our own generosity and commitment to God's work.

Finally, Ps. Jim emphasize the practical steps and spiritual benefits of giving, encouraging believers to give cheerfully and prioritize God in their finances. By sowing generously, we can expect to reap generously, witnessing God's provision and blessings in our lives. The act of giving, whether to the local church or other ministries, is a reflection of our faith and gratitude, and it plays a crucial role in advancing God's Kingdom.

Questions for reflection:

1. Reflect on a time when you experienced God's provision in your life. How did it impact your faith?
2. Are there areas in your life where you struggle to put God first, particularly in your finances? How can you address these challenges?
3. How do you currently decide how much to give? What principles guide your decision?
4. What steps can you take to develop a more generous spirit and practice regular giving?

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Understanding Generosity:

- What does generosity mean to you, and how do you see it reflected in your life and community?
- How does the example of the Macedonian churches in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 challenge your understanding of generosity?

2. Biblical Foundations:

- Why do you think Jesus and Paul emphasized the importance of giving and money in their teachings?
- Discuss 1 Timothy 6:10-12. How can we flee from the love of money and pursue righteousness?

3. Practical Application:

- How can we as a group or community support each other in practicing generosity?
- What are some practical ways we can ensure we are giving God our "first fruits" rather than our leftovers?

4. Challenges and Encouragement:

- What are some common obstacles people face when trying to give generously, and how can we overcome them? How can we encourage and support each other to be cheerful givers as described in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8?

5. Action Steps:

- What specific actions can you take this week to begin or increase your practice of generous giving? How can we hold each other accountable in our commitments to giving and generosity?

If you have never accepted Jesus as your personal saviour and you would like to move from the margins to having a relationship with Him. Please speak to one of the pastors or leadership team, we would love to pray with you. Alternatively, go to www.elim.family/ihavedecided to find out more about giving your life to Jesus.