

# Friends of the Casa

Newsletter  
BAPTISTA EDITORIAL  
**Mundo Hispano**  
Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

Baptist Spanish Publishing House Foundation  
7000 Alabama Street  
El Paso, TX 79904  
Phone: (915) 566-9656

Volume 10—Number 2

## The joy of giving

**T**he joy of the grace of giving is one of the greatest blessings that God provides for His children.

The Bible and history teach us that God gave us His Son, Jesus gave His life, the disciples gave the message, the first Christians gave their faithfulness, the martyrs of the faith gave their life, the missionaries gave their testimony—all who preceded us gave. When we give, we renew ourselves, we experience love toward our neighbor, we learn to live as Christians, and we feel the joy of giving. Joy and generosity go hand in hand.

The one who loves because of what he can receive is greedy. The one who loves because of what he can give is generous. The one who loves grows and multiplies; he who gives feels that his life, his possessions and his money have significance and a purpose. The heart of a Christian loves because of what he can give. The ones who have the resources can give. The ones who have a job or a small business can give. The underprivileged can give, just as the widow in the New Testament was also able to give. Please note that Jesus recognized her

for her generosity not for the amount she gave.

### **Fourteen Principles on the joy of giving**

A study of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, chapters 8 and 9, teaches us fourteen principles on the grace of being generous. Allow me to review them briefly:

- 8:1-4 External circumstances and difficulties should not prevent us from being generous.
- 8:5 All financial giving should be preceded by a giving of ourselves.
- 8:6-7 Believers should try to excel in the grace of giving.
- 8:6, 10, 11 The goals worthy of our stewardship should be fulfilled.
- 9:5 Giving generously is evidence of the sincerity of our love.
- 8:8-9, 24 There is an intimate relationship between "God's grace" and "the grace of giving."
- 8:8-9 A good attitude when giving is more important than the quantity given.
- 8:12 In God's economy, what is correct for one person to give will sup-

ply what others are lacking.

- 8:16-21 We must make sensible use of God's money in order to honor Him, fulfill a vital ministry, and avoid any type of criticism.
- 9:1-2 Those that generously give in love encourage others to give.
- 9:5-7 We should give with a proper attitude, "not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
- 9:8-11 Our generosity touches the heart of God to supply "all that you need... in every good work."
- 9:11-14 Generosity promotes worship and thanksgiving to God.
- 9:15 Giving with generosity is the natural answer to God's "incredible gift."

When the believer gives, he discovers an important secret of the joy of Christian life. Perhaps you have even asked yourself, "Be joyful because I give? I, for one, like to receive!" There seems to be a contradiction of feelings, but really there's not. To feel "joy" is something deep, permanent, leaving one with the impression of having made a difference in another's life. To feel "happy" is something marvelous, but super-

ficial and momentary. We all like to receive gifts! However, the truth of the matter is that when I receive, it is because others see that I need something. When I give, it is because I have and want to contribute for someone who needs something.

### **The Grace of Giving Transforms Us into Faithful Stewards**

Through the grace of giving we serve our fellowmen because we are given the opportunity to express our love to those who have need. At the same time, we give testimony to that fact that we give because we first received from God. Imagine that you are a basket, a pot, a box or just a glass. God has placed in that receptacle many blessings, but if you do not take anything out from it and give to others, the time will come when the receptacle will fill up. Even though God would like to put in more blessings, He won't be able to, for there is no more room. That is what Luke 6:38 teaches us, "Give, and it will be given to you." "Freely you have received, freely give," Matthew 10:8.

Through the grace of giving we make it easier for our church to fulfill its ministry. Our tithes and offerings will be presented with joy before the altar of the Lord, and it will be done in love and not out of duty. Our contributions to noble and very important causes, such as what the BSPH Foundation is doing, make it possible for Spanish-speaking churches and their members to have the printed and electronic resources they need to increase their outreach.

An old legend recounts that when the Lord went up to heaven,

the angels welcomed Him. They worshiped and praised Him for His work of redemption. Gabriel, the archangel, a bit worried approached Him and asked, "Lord, what plans do you have in order to make sure everyone on earth will be aware of the work of redemption you have carried out?"

The Lord replied, "I gathered a group of men: Peter, John, Andrew, Matthew, Bartholomew and the others, and for a period of three years I was with them, instructing them and asking them to go in my name throughout the world announcing the Good News of salvation."

Not completely satisfied with the answer, Gabriel insisted by asking, "Lord, if those men fail, do you have another plan to remedy their failure or desertion?"

The Lord replied, "No, I don't have any other plan. Only those that know me personally and accept me as their Lord and Savior can do the work. I only have Peter, John, James and the rest."

This is only a legend, but it allows us to carefully consider and ask, are we carrying out the Lord's plan? Will He be ashamed of us?

When the believer comes to understand that "it is more blessed to give than to receive," he has begun to grow in the grace of giving. We should practice this grace, for as we grow in it, we are supporting the Lord's work with our gifts, talents, time, abilities and possessions.

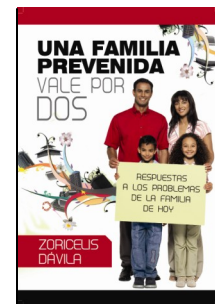
As faithful stewards we must remember that the Lord's rewards will be in proportion on how we give. "For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38.

If, as a result of this teaching from the Word of God you are led

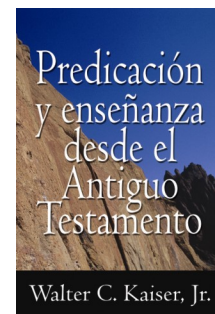
to give generously, I encourage you to consider giving to the ministry that provides Bibles, Christian books, teaching and electronic materials through the Foundation of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House. Do so under the Lord's guidance remembering that "God loves a cheerful giver."

—*Jorge Enrique Díaz,*  
*General Director*

*Baptist Spanish Publishing House*  
*(also known as Editorial Mundo*  
*Hispano / Casa Bautista de Publicaciones)*



**Answers to the problems families face today**  
**46259—\$10.99**



**This book will help all of us fulfill our responsibility of preaching the whole counsel of God with wisdom and grace.**  
**43061—\$15.00**

**Place your order by:**  
**Phone: 1-800-755-5958**  
**Fax: (915) 565-9008**  
**www.editorialmh.org**

**The Baptist Spanish Publishing House**  
**Foundation has a Web site at:**  
**www.bsphfoundation.org**  
**Visit us there!**