

# Spiritual Disciplines

## *The Discipline of Giving*

(Malachi 3:8-10)

- Introduction:
1. Have you ever stolen anything? If so, how did you feel afterwards?
  2. Can you imagine stealing from God? This is precisely what he accused his people of doing in Malachi 3:8-10.
  3. It is hard to give away what was hard earned.
  4. That's why this lesson is intended to help us develop the spiritual discipline of giving.
  5. To do so, let's examine 2 Corinthians 8.

### I. We Should Abound in Giving

- A. (2 Corinthians 8:7).
- B. There are many spiritual disciplines that we work at, but is one of them giving?
- C. Like anything, you can't just "dabble" in it and find joy in it.
- D. The Greek that is translated "abound" means "to go over and above" or "to go beyond what is expected."
- E. "Token" giving isn't what the Lord wants.

### II. Giving is a Test of Our Love

- A. (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).
- B. Giving is a good way to measure our love for God.
- C. Look at the extent that Jesus loved – he gave up his riches.
- D. So, now it's our turn to demonstrate our love for him.

### III. Giving Involves More Than Intent

- A. (2 Corinthians 8:10-12).
- B. God wants more than good intentions.
- C. He wants us to put our good intentions into action.

### IV. Giving Should Be Proportional

- A. (2 Corinthians 8:13-15).
- B. (Luke 21:1-4).
- C. Equality is established when rich and poor, give as they are prospered.

- Conclusion:
1. You may find this sermon challenging, and if so, it was meant to be.
  2. It's not easy to give, but when we realize it is a way God tests our love for him, who among us wouldn't want to excel?
  3. Let me close with this question, "When you get a raise, which rises – your standard of living or your standard of giving?"