

July 23, 2022. Local Conference Advance

The Secret of Cheerful Giving

Appeal: 1 Corinthians 13:3

“If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”

We cheerfully worship with our resources because of the love that God has manifested to us. Our attitude while we serve, obey, and worship is important to the Lord. The book of Revelation gives an interesting example. In the letter to the church in Ephesus, the Lord did not reproach this church with any wrongdoing; He even mentioned their good actions, however one thing was missing: “You have forsaken the love you had at first.” Without love, obedience is of no value in the eyes of God. In contrast, when obedience flows out of love, Jesus has a wonderful promise for us: “that your joy may be complete” (Jn. 15:11).

The story is told of a man who was a great provider for his family. Every month, on pay day, he would purchase everything that his wife and sons needed. This family lacked nothing except of a happy father. Once, one of his sons questioned him: “Dad, why did you do all this for us?” His answer was: “I am legally married to your mother and you are my dependents, it is my responsibility to provide for you.” It wasn’t the answer the boy was expecting and later in life, he understood why the father was so sad when everyone was enjoying the goodies. Obligations and responsibilities had replaced love.

How do we give to the Lord? Many factors can lead us to participate in tithing and regular offerings, but apostle Paul speaks about the acceptable attitude: “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7). Our God is looking for cheerful givers, and we grow as cheerful givers when we are motivated by God’s love for us.

Let us meditate daily on his gift of love and may Christ’s love compel us to worship with our resources. This week as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings may it be in response to God’s extravagant love.

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for Your unfailing love for us. We pray that the assurance of Your love drives us in all our actions, and we claim the promise of complete joy.