

The Faith Script

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“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16
(NKJV)

Prayer Wall

As a retail pharmacist, the biggest challenge I face every day is dealing with difficult customers. It's a real struggle sometimes to maintain a loving attitude when you are being chastised for a situation which you had no control over or when someone is simply taking out their frustrations on you for no reason whatsoever. It's so easy, when I see someone being rude or negative, to be tempted to respond to them with the same rudeness and negativity which I so ardently abhor. I've seen this pattern in so many pharmacists and pharmacy employees over the years, and Christian pharmacists are certainly not immune to this temptation.

Often when I think back on a difficult situation with a challenging patient, I am reminded of Christ's words when he said, "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them." (Luke 6:32) At the very least, this reminder helps me to hold my tongue and maintain a loving attitude on the outside, but simply following a rule or command doesn't cut to the core of the temptation or address the motivation behind seeking a more godly attitude.

Many times, when I dig down to the core, I find that the underlying barrier to loving those patients who are lashing out with harsh words or a rude attitude is pride. It's pride that tells us to defend ourselves, that refuses to let us apologize when we don't feel like we've done anything wrong, and that cares more about being right than doing the right thing. As C.S. Lewis says in *Mere Christianity*, "For pride is spiritual cancer: it eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense." We cannot hope to love our patients when there is such a monstrous cancer as pride eating away at our ability to do so.

The only cure for this cancer is humility, but that does not come from our own will power or our desire to be "good people." It comes from the gospel – from the saving truth that, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) When we gaze upon the savior that died because we were so sinful and the love that was bestowed upon us in spite of that sin, only then can we hope to find a true Christ-like humility and a love for the unlovely.

Amanda Hayes, CPFI Board Member
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An Analysis of Financial Giving According to the Apostle Paul

By

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Introduction

Money, finances, income, profit, interest, bills, payments, debt, interest, stocks, bonds, dividends, and 401(k), 403(b), and 457 plans are terms used daily. Economics is a vital part of each country and within the profession of pharmacy. The importance of money has existed for thousands of years and has not diminished in current times. With the ever increasing number of financial options available and obligations, it is essential that believers understand biblically based financial principles.

The greatest source of financial wisdom resides in the pages of God's inerrant and infallible Word. A crucial aspect of finances centers upon the area of giving. Financial stewardship passages are located in the Old Testament (Pentateuch, Historical, Poetical, and Prophetical books) and the New Testament (Gospels, Historical books, and Epistles). George Barna, a Christian researcher, conducts numerous studies related to the Christian faith. Barna cites that adult tithing in 2011 is at a decade low of 4% 1. The Apostle Paul provides answers to four key questions concerning responsible stewardship in his epistles. These questions will be answered and timeless truths will be discussed as portions from his epistles are examined.

Conclusion

The Apostle Paul provided wise instruction in his epistles concerning giving. His writings answered four critical giving questions with timeless truths. After examining the texts, it is evident that each person, each family, each church, ministry recipients, and believers gifted with the spiritual gift of giving are responsible for giving. A textual analysis also reveals the reasons for giving are that giving expands ministry, extinguishes needs, exemplifies service, exercises a spiritual gift, expresses grace, expresses love, enables God to release His resources, exalts God, and encourages believers. Believers are to give systematically, consistently, proportionately, cheerfully, generously, willingly, submissively, sacrificially, and sincerely. Results of giving are that giving glorifies God, meets needs, blesses the giver, displays God's grace, provides the example for others to follow, strengthens fellowship, and spreads the gospel.

Dr. Jeffery Copeland, has written an amazing article summarizing the biblical basis for Godly stewardship that addresses four key questions. [Click here to read the entire article](#)

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