

YOU'LL GET THROUGH THIS

A STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS

A Blessed Life – Message 7

Warm-up

Share with the group a time when someone gave you an unexpected gift that you don't feel that you deserved. Why did they give it to you? How did it make you feel?

Overview

Over the past six weeks, we've learned three reasons the Apostle Paul wrote the book of Philippians:

1. To encourage the Church to walk in unity, harmony and the joy of the Lord.
2. To prevent criticism of a dear friend, Epaphroditus.
3. To thank the Philippian church for their giving.

In our final discussion, we will study how Paul circles back to thank them once again for their generous giving and discover how we can practically apply this teaching to our daily living.

Word & Application

Read Philippians 4:14-19. Here Paul teaches the church how to live a life of generosity that positions them to experience a blessed life. Let's discuss in depth what Paul is saying to us.

1. Paul affirms their giving.

Read Genesis 8:22, Philippians 4:14-16 & Luke 6:38. As a Jewish man, Paul understood the amazing power and benefit of giving. He understood the principle of living beyond ourselves to become givers, sowers, and investors in the gospel.

There are four natural laws we all participate in: the cold, the heat, winter, and summer. We have no control over the temperature or the seasons, nor can we control time. There is only one law in Genesis 8:22 we can do anything about – that's the law of seedtime and harvest. Whatever a person sows, that shall they also reap. When we give, we are most like God *because God is a giver*. Moreover, our giving plants seeds into the soil of the gospel ministry which is to see people coming to Christ.

- How did the church at Philippi go the extra mile to sow into the gospel ministry?
- What motivated them to give sacrificially?

2. Your giving credits your heavenly account.

Read Philippians 4:17-18, Matthew 6:19-21 & Malachi 3:10.

Your sacrificial giving touches the heart of God, deposits into your heavenly bank account, and becomes a sweet-smelling scent to God!" It pleases the heart of God when you invest your money and resources in helping people *get right* with Him.

- Why is money so appealing, yet can be stressful to give away?
- What type of heavenly account are we building according to Jesus in Matthew 6:19-21?
- What fruit can we yield in heaven by sowing into the gospel ministry today?

In the Scriptures, there are two primary ways we give towards the gospel: your tithe and your offerings. Both of these are credited to your account.

1. **Tithes** are when we give the *first* tenth of our increase into a life-giving, local church. Essentially, we bring our tithes to God, not just a church or organization.
2. **Offerings** are gifts *over-and-above* your tithe where the Holy Spirit leads you. Remember, an offering only goes into soil where people are being won to Christ.
 - **Read Malachi 3:10 again.** How does God want us to test Him in this passage? Have you tested God with this challenge? What was the outcome?

3. Your giving positions you for supernatural blessing.

Read Philippians 4:19, Galatians 6:7 & 2 Corinthians 9:10.

As you participate in the law of sowing and reaping, you will see God meet your needs supernaturally. When you sow in faithful obedience, you are positioning yourself for a supernatural harvest. There is a premise before the promise and a position before the provision. You must plant a seed before you see the harvest. What's more, the most fertile soil is where people are being reached, and where family lines and futures are being changed.

- Share with the group a time when you gave out of obedience and God blessed your obedience.

Life Challenge

What part of your life do you need to become more intentional about seedtime and harvest? Pray to God about what that practically looks like and commit to planting seed where God is directing you.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank You for the abundant blessings and provision You have given each of us so that we can, in turn, be a blessing to others. Show each of us how we can be obedient to sow into good soil for Your kingdom. Thank You for being so faithful to Your promise to care for us. *Pray for the specific needs of the group.*