

WE CAN'T OUTGIVE GOD

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

2 Cor. 9:8

REFLECTION

Have you ever wondered, "If I give away this much of my resources to help someone out or towards a need, won't I have lesser for myself then?" Perhaps, you may say to yourself, "I don't have the means or I don't have much to give. Maybe God can send someone else to help this person out."

The truth of the matter is, it is not so much the amount that one gives but rather with the heart and mind that one offers to the person in need. No giving is too big, too small or too insignificant if it comes from a heart and mind that is willing and compassionate.

The Apostle Paul wrote to remind the believers in Corinth of their willingness to help the needy and to put actions to the promise they had made earlier. He was concerned that they turned against their initial promise with various excuses and not make good their intentions. Paul went on to encourage them that their sacrificial giving to the needy would be met by God's generosity and abundant and limitless grace. In other words, God is no man's debtor. No one can out-give God such that God owes him or her anything. In fact, God would be able to provide such abundant grace that would enable them to give and help others further.

How are we then to respond to God's vast ownership of resources and generosity? We don't have to be unduly concerned with lacking in anything. If God, who owns everything in all creation, did not withhold His one and only Son from us, how much more would he provide us with the things we need in life. We can freely give as much as we have freely received. We can also give with wisdom, discernment and with open and cheerful hearts knowing that God is pleased with our generosity and being like Him in nature. We can also give of our resources, not just in monetary sense, e.g. time, listening ear, effort, acts of kindness, *pro bono* services, a ride, etc. We give because we know it pleases God when we become His hands, His feet and His body that minister to a hurting and needy world.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, everything in heaven and on earth is Yours alone. Everything we have comes from You. Help us to hold to the things we have lightly, knowing that they are meant for our pleasure, and also for the means to help others in need, and also to experience Your grace. Help us not to be possessive but to be compassionate and generous so that we may reflect Your goodness in our giving. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Take the time to reflect on your giving. What guides you in your giving? What hinders you in giving to those in need? What are some of the resources you have that you can share with those in need? What would you ask of the Lord that He may help you in your giving? Tell Him about it.
- Do you know of anyone in your community who is in need? It can be a family member, neighbour, colleague, friend, church member, stranger, etc. Commit them to God in prayer. Ask Him to show you how you may help them besides praying for them. Do you of any referrals or external resources that these people could turn to if you are not able to help directly?
- Sometimes the church can be also in need, e.g. helping hands, talents, abilities, services, etc. that would be found useful in various ministries to the needy and communities. Do you have a gift, talent or resources that your church ministry could benefit from? Will you offer them to the service of God and His body?
- In a world and time that often focuses on "What can I get out of life?" and "Me-first" mentality pray that God would touch individuals who would be more gracious and thoughtful of the needy. Pray for the developed countries to be mindful of the less developed ones and share resources such as vaccination and basic aid. Pray for companies to see beyond profits and to the well-being of communities, society and environment.

*It's not how much we give
but how much love we put into giving."*

Mother Theresa

***If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly
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