



## *“Attitude Matters”*

In my walk with Christ, I have found that my attitude towards giving matters when it comes to my approach to stewardship. I might even go further to say that my attitude matters most of all.

We might discuss the Biblical requirements of tithing of our resources, and the obligation of being a faithful steward of our time, talent, and health; but, if we give reluctantly or in a mean spirit, then we have missed the whole point of stewardship.

In 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, Paul is encouraging our brothers and sisters in Corinth to give generously. He lifts up the example of our brothers and sisters in Macedonia, saying, “... they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints.” What encouraged Paul, and hopefully us, was not the amount that they gave, although I believed they helped greatly, but their being so eager to give towards the work of God.

Several times in my walk I have met Christians who begged me for an opportunity to give, to serve, and to share. They testified that they were overwhelmed by how richly God had blessed them, and how they felt called to give of their abundance so that others might be blessed through them. In these situations, strict tithing would have limited the gift, for in their enthusiasm and genuine thankfulness, they seemed to give way beyond their means.

I believe that in order to grow spiritually, which is what stewardship is all about in my opinion, we must come to a point where we begin to realize how truly blessed we are, and how God has provided us with much more than we could ever dream of needing for ourselves. Once we begin to see our resources from God’s point of view, then Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 rings true: “Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” May we share, cheerfully!

~ Richard J. Wilcox, Up River Friends

From the NCYM Stewardship and Finance Committee



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