

PARTNERSHIP AT MAYBRIDGE

Everything we've got

Serve • Give • Receive

MAYBRIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH



Discuss

If you could choose one person you know and instantly make them a billionaire, who would you choose and why?



Part 2: Give

Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.

1 Cor 16:1-4

logeia = collection

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

2 Cor 8:1-5

***Diakonia =
ministry or service***

There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord's people. For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action.

But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be. For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident. So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.

2 Cor 9:1-5

***eulogia (blessing)
= generous gift***

“People rightly say that money cannot buy happiness. But money and happiness are still related in a curious way. Happiness can be the result, not of spending more money on oneself, but rather of giving money away to others ... the data examined here shows this to be not simply a nice idea, but a social-scientific fact.”

Hilary Davidson & Christian Smith, *The Paradox of Generosity*

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

2 Cor 9v12

*leitourgia = liturgical or
priestly act*

I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there. For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem.

Romans 15:26

***koinonia = contribution
'communioning'***

New Testament Giving

Logeia = collect (It's practical)

Diakonia = ministry (It's the work of God)

Eulogia = blessing (It's good for you and others)

Leitourgia = priestly act (It's worship)

Koinonia = fellowship (It's part of life together)



Discuss



The talk mentioned 5 different ways of understanding generosity, from the New Testament. Which stands out to you most and why?

Logeia = collect (It's practical)

Diakonia = ministry (It's the work of God)

Eulogia = blessing (It's good for you and others)

Leitourgia = priestly act (It's worship)

Koinonia = fellowship (It's part of life together)

Discuss

What difference does it make to think of giving not as 'giving up money' but as participating in God's work? Why might generosity actually make us freer rather than poorer?

How might *regular* giving change our relationship with money over time?



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