

## 2 Corinthians 8:1-9; 9:6-8 – Faith Promise Giving FBC Pinch Missions Conference – February 13, 2019

What is a Missions Conference? A Local Church in a business meeting to decide the fate of the heathen. Tonight, or over the next couple of weeks if you'd like time to pray about it, you will be voting one of four ways:

1. **"I'm not going to participate"** – that would be voting for FBC Pinch to drop support of all 25 missionaries that we currently support.
2. **"I'm going to give less this year than I did last year"** – that would be voting for FBC Pinch to cut support back in half for our 25 missionaries.
3. **"I'm going to hold my own and give as I have been giving"** – that would be voting for FBC Pinch to continue as-is, which isn't a bad thing by any means.
4. **"By the grace of God, I'm going to give more this year than I've ever given before"** – that would be voting for FBC Pinch to be able to take on new missionaries for support, while continuing full support of our current missionaries (and there are already 11 I have "on hold" before scheduling for a visit from them to present their work to us).

Everyone ought to give something, and everyone who gives something, ought to give more than they've ever given before. 2 Cor. 8:1-9. Verse 1 – Giving is a grace, and not to give is a disgrace. Verses 2-3 – you are giving one of three ways: 1. Below your power, 2. According to your power, and 3. Beyond your power. Verse 8 – *not by commandment* – tithing is a command (Mal. 3:8-10; Prov. 3:9), but giving to missions is proving *the sincerity of your love* for the unsaved. Verse 9 – you know experientially about the grace of God! Since Jesus did for me, why wouldn't I give for Him? John 3:16.

TEXT: 2 Cor. 9:6-8. Giving & Receiving is like Sowing & Reaping. We need to give God our Time, our Talent, and our Treasures...

1. **We reap what we sow** – If we aren't careful, we will spend all of our Time, Talent, and Treasures on carnal, earthly things instead of spiritual, eternal things. Mat. 6:19-21; Gal. 6:7-8.
2. **We reap more than we sow** – when one gets saved, they become a soul-winner, and also maybe a preacher, or a missionary, or a bus worker – and because of the sowing of the one who got saved, more people are getting saved, and the original sower is now reaping more than he ever sowed! Wow!!!
3. **We reap in proportion to what we sow** – Tithing is a debt I owe; Giving is a seed I sow!
4. **We reap after we sow** – "If I had lots of money, I'd give lots to missions." That mentality is that if you could reap first, then you'd begin sowing. It doesn't work that way – we always reap after we sow! We won't give an account one day for what we didn't have, but we will give an account for what we do have.

*Every man according as* he can figure out in his budget, and after there's enough for multiple vacations, and leisure trips, and hundreds of television channels, and after he is up to date with the most recent gadgets available, so let him give. NO! **AS HE PURPOSETH IN HIS HEART.** I have heard prayed my entire life, "Bless those that have to give, and those that have not," and I even adopted that language myself sometimes when praying over the offering. But it is not biblical to say, "those that have not," because everyone can give, even if it is only one dollar a week. **Giving is not a matter of CAN or CAN'T, it is a matter of WILL or WON'T.** Some may give one dollar a week, and it is a sacrifice to do so; some may give one hundred dollars a week, and it is no big deal to them; but God will only bless those that give cheerfully, and that give ABOVE their tithe and offering.