

## THE HEALTHY SOUL, PART 4: GIVING

### Discussion Questions

#### Introduction

DEFINITION: Giving is any voluntary transfer of any of your resources to others.

1. Name some cases of Christians who cut sweet deals with the world and ended up being focused on personal gain rather than faithfulness to the Lord. (Try not to judge them in your heart as you do!)
2. Do you think greed is limited to money and things? Explain.
3. How bad is greed in the eyes of the Lord? Scripture proof?
4. Have you ever become aware that your own heart was compromised by greedy desires of any sort? How did you come to find out about it? Was it before or after believing in Christ?
5. If you feel comfortable doing so, share an instance where the Lord convinced you that you needed to repent of the above behavior and possibly make restitution.

#### 2 Corinthians 8:9; 9:7-11

1. Have you ever given in a grudging way? Why was it grudging?
2. Have you ever given in the middle of fear for your own needs? How did either of the above experiences affect your giving to others in the future?
3. What do you think God's attitude is toward giving in either of those attitudes?
4. How would you advise someone struggling with the above?
5. Name some other Bible verses which lead us to believe that the Lord cares for the needs of his children. How has the Lord used these truths in your own life?

#### 2 Corinthians 8:10-14

1. What are some of the bad results of gripping material things too tightly? Why do we do it?
2. Tell some stories of remarkable acts of believers who opened their hands and released things upon which they could have laid claim. What good came from those faithful acts?
3. Can you think of some kingdom advances which could be made if believers felt free to relax their grip?

#### 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

1. Describe a "Sermon on the Amount" which impacted you positively.
2. Describe the impact the example of other believers' giving has made on you. Which of the above transformed you more?
3. What is the spiritual connection between God's grace and our decisions to give?
4. Are there ways that believers can manifest God by free acts of giving? Can churches do this? Name some examples of individuals and churches who have regular ministries where giving is the central principle.

#### BONUS QUESTIONS:

1. How do we enjoy things God has given us without feeling guilty that he has not given them to others?
2. What spiritual disciplines can help us keep from feeling jealous about the wealth and possessions of others?