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GIVING FOR CHRIST.

When the Apostle Paul was urging the Corinthian Christians to liberality in aiding the poor saints at Jerusalem, he tells them: "I speak not by commandment. . . . but to *prove the sincerity of your love.*" The great motive to liberality is that Christ loved us, and gave Himself for us. The Lord casts Himself, as it were, on the liberality of His people, and asks from them a gift as a proof of the reality of their love.

In order that our giving may glorify God, do good to others, and be pleasant and profitable to ourselves, there are four principles which it is needful to keep in mind.

1. GIVE WILLINGLY.
2. GIVE LARGELY.
3. GIVE FREQUENTLY.
4. GIVE WISELY.

1. *Give Willingly.*—How ungrudgingly the Lord gives to us—the light, the air, the fields, the "kindly fruits of the earth." Ah! one may say, these cost Him nothing. Then "ye know the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye, through His poverty might be rich." Ungrudgingly the Father bestowed on us the gift of His Son. Willingly, most willingly, the Son emptied Himself for us. Shall we then count aught that we have our own, or hold back aught that can help the cause of our loving Master? Most willingly may we give, although our God had promised us nothing again. But he has promised us a return. "Give, and it shall be given you." "He that hath pity on the poor, lendeth unto the Lord, and that which he hath given shall he pay him again." Pay him again, not that he may cease his giving and hoard it up, but to give it out again in an ever widening circle of blessing. Give as did David and the people, when they prepared so willingly for building the Temple. "The people rejoiced because they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord; and David said, Our God, we thank thee and praise thy glorious name, but who am I and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee."

2. *Give Largely.*—It was a great and real gift that God gave to us. It was worthy of Himself. When David was preparing for the Temple he prepared largely; "for," said he "the work is great, for the palace is not for man, but for the Lord." How much grander is the work that we are engaged in, and far greater are the requirements of that spiritual house which is now being built of living stones? How much, then, shall we give? The Apostle's rule is, "as God has prospered us." A society has recently been formed for promoting liberality among Christians, and its fundamental principle is, that Christians ought to give a tenth of their substance to the Lord. That is a very good beginning, and we should commence at that at all events; but we