

Trinity Tidings  
Finance Committee Article  
June, 2017

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Self-sufficient. Really? Part 2 of 2

(Part 1 of 2 of “Self-sufficient. Really?” appeared in the April, 2017 issue of Trinity Tidings)

Greetings Trinity Members and Friends,

I shared with you in the April issue of Trinity Tidings an article written by Scott Dannemiller wherein he wrote a message to change our perspectives of what we believe to be blessings in our lives. He wrote of our cultural tendency to refer to our “material fortune” as a blessing. He challenged us to be grateful for our material fortunes but to also consider them as resources entrusted to us for the betterment of the Church. I would like to add to that perspective in this month’s article.

I believe it is safe to say that most of us share at least one common goal in regards to our finances and that is to be self-sufficient. But, what does that mean? Does it mean we pay our own bills? Yes. Does it mean we live within our means rather than above them? Yes. But, I wonder if there is a place for financial self-sufficiency in the biblical perspective? In chapter 9 verse 6 of 2 Corinthians, Paul’s letter to the church at Corinth starts, “Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” We are called to take action! We are called to give back. Okay. So, I’ll add a line to my budget and call it “Giving.” Can’t I take action and give back but still be self-sufficient? Maybe.

Let’s move on to verse 7: “Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Attitude. Uh oh. I don’t know about you, but I need help with attitude. If I consider myself to be self-sufficient, my attitude takes on a different personality. Hey, I earned that money. I can pay my own bills. I can do what verse six tells me - I CAN take action. I CAN add a line item to my budget for giving, but I don’t know if I’ll be cheerful about it. Why should I be giving away what I worked hard for? But, can’t I change my attitude myself; after all, I am self-sufficient? Dubious.

Reading on, verse 8 states: “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.” And there it is friends – GOD IS ABLE. If we believe ourselves to be self-sufficient, we shut him out from the process right at the beginning. We cannot make this mistake - we cannot do this alone!

So if we consider our material fortunes to be resources entrusted to us for the betterment of the Church, and if we realize we cannot do it alone, then we are not self-sufficient; rather, we are dependent on God. We need Him to give us guidance on how He would have us use those resources. We must be willing to go to Him in prayerful petition and to listen to His answer. God is able friends! Let us not rely on ourselves. Let us be dependent on God.

In Christ,  
Mary Pace