

Finding God's Strength In Our Weakness

**Strength To Give:
Principles For Giving
2 Cor 8:1-9:5 Pg 820**



Backstory On The Offering...

- *Church in Jerusalem was struggling*
- *Paul was challenging the Gentile churches to help the “mother church” back in Jerusalem*
- *The effort had been going on a couple years*
- *The Corinthians had volunteered to give...then life happened...Paul is reminding them*
- *He takes the opportunity to teach about giving*



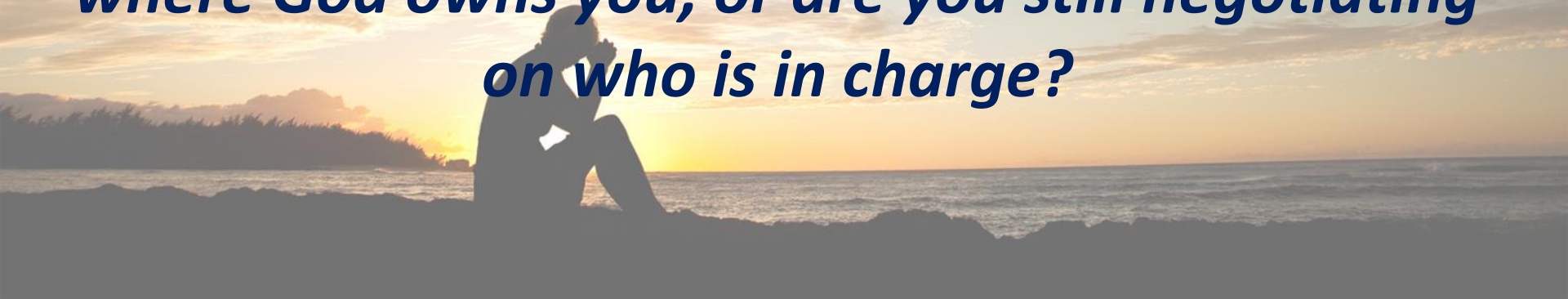
Principle #1

The First Thing You Give Is Yourself

Vs 5: “they gave themselves first”

Lit = to be first in time, order, place, importance

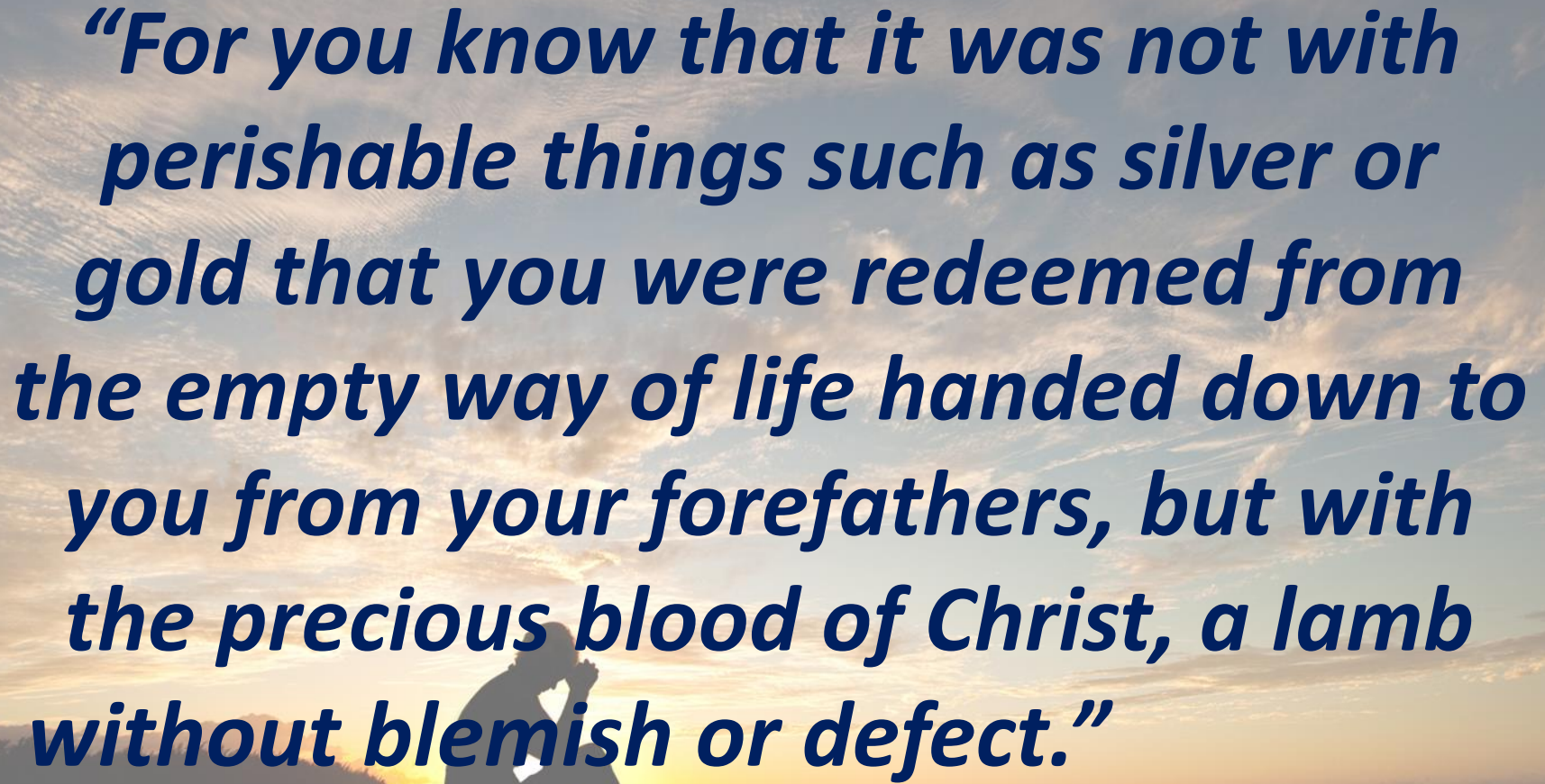
Question: Have you come to the place in your life where God owns you, or are you still negotiating on who is in charge?



“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price.”

1 Cor 6:19



A person is silhouetted against a bright sunset over the ocean. The person is sitting on the beach, looking out at the water. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and wispy clouds. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, blue, italicized font.

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”

1 Peter 1:18-19

A person is sitting on a beach at sunset, looking out at the ocean. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and wispy clouds. The person is in silhouette, sitting on the sand with their back to the camera, looking towards the horizon where the sun is setting. The ocean waves are visible in the foreground.

Principle # 2

Make It Your Goal To Excel In Giving

*Vs 7: “Excel in this grace of giving”
Lit = to superabound, be abundant, enough and
to spare, exceed, excel, increase”*

*Question: “When did you last examine your
giving? Are you growing in your giving?”*

Principle # 3

Giving Is About Attitude, Not Amount

Vs 12: “If the willingness is there”

Lit = a predisposition; readiness of mind, forwardness of thinking, anticipation”

Question: “What is your attitude toward giving?”





Principle # 4

God's Goal is Equality in Giving, Not Equality in Amount

Vs 13: "that there might be equality"

Lit = to be even, to be alike, to be equal"

*Question: Am I giving out of my abundance to
the need of others? Am I doing my part?*

Principle # 5

Give Responsibly, As Good Stewards

Vs 21: “we are taking pains to do what is right”

- *Trusted men*
- *Care to avoid criticism*
- *Do what is right (Before God AND Man!)*

Question: “Are you a good steward of what God has entrusted to your care?”



Principle #6

Give Generously, Not Grudgingly

9:5 “a generous gift, not one grudgingly given”

- *Generous: an act of bountiful blessing*
- *Grudging: covetous, greedy, unwilling offering*

Question: “Is your offering POURING OUT, or being PRIED OUT of your hands?”

Check Your Giving

- **Have you given yourself to God?**
- **Are you growing in your giving?**
- **Does your attitude toward giving honor God?**
- **Do you carry your part in the body with giving?**
- **Are you responsible in your giving?**
- **Does your giving POUR out...or is it PRIED out?**

