

Friendship Deeds, From A-Z



ive Gleefully

2 Corinthians 9:7

“You should each give what you have decided in your heart to give. You shouldn’t give if you don’t want to or because you are forced to. God loves a cheerful giver.”

A mother wanted to teach her daughter a moral lesson. She gave the little girl a quarter and a dollar for church. "Put whichever one you want in the collection plate and keep the other for yourself," she told the girl. When they were coming out of church, the mother asked her daughter which amount she had given. "Well," said the little girl, "I was going to give the dollar, but just before the collection the man in the pulpit said that we should all be cheerful givers. I knew I'd be a lot more cheerful if I gave the quarter, so I did."

(Bits & Pieces, February 4, 1993, p. 23.)

What do you think about the above story? Do you think the girl was generous? According to 2 Corinthians 9:7, she gave the way the Bible told her to... cheerfully! This verse isn't just talking about giving money at church, though. It's teaching you how to give to others, too. When it comes to friends, how do we know *what* to give, *when* to give and *how much* to give in our friendships? While there is no perfect answer to these questions all the time, one thing's for sure: God will lead us as we ask Him for help. SO, the letter "A," #1 thing to do is pray and ask the Lord how He wants you to give and share what you have...your money, your friends, your toys and your time.

2 Corinthians 9:7 teaches us that God wants us to share cheerfully and for the right reasons. Sometimes it is tempting to give gifts or even your own things away because you want someone to like you or because you feel guilty if you don't. However, do you see that the first part of verse 7 says "...give what you have decided in your heart to give"? Get it? It's a decision! When we give or share *without* thinking or asking God, it's difficult to know if you're doing the right thing or not. If that is the case, you can't really be cheerful about it, can you?

SO—the bottom line is this: Ask God to lead you and your parents to teach you more about godly giving. Sometimes, it's even tricky for moms and dads, so they'll probably learn with you as you pray about it together along the way! As you grow to give God's way: prayerfully, cheerfully, and with the right motive, your friendships will honor God, the greatest and best gift-giver of all time! And who knows, with the Lord as your guide, if you have to make the choice of the little girl in the story, maybe you'll even feel cheerful about giving the dollar instead of the quarter. ☺

Discuss the following questions with your parent/s:

- 1. Other than toys and money, what kinds of things can be given away or shared?***
- 2. Pray with your parents and ask them to help you give like the verse teaches you.***

“G” is a giver, so he'll give you a clue: “H” is all heart when the color is blue.