

## To truly give is to give cheerfully.



**G**OD LIKES CHEERFUL GIVERS—those who give voluntarily because they know it pleases Him and they're helping others, expecting nothing in return. That kind of giving can be the greatest of all pleasures, because as the purse is emptied, the heart is filled. "The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself" (Proverbs 11:25). "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

But when we don't give cheerfully, we're not really giving. It's like the story of the rich man who thought he was throwing a copper penny into the church offering, but noticed as it left his fingers that it was a gold sovereign. When he saw what he was losing, he tried to snatch it back, but the usher put his hand over the bag and said, "Sorry! Once in, forever in."

So the rich man said, "Well, at least I'll get credit for the sovereign in Heaven."

"No you won't," said the usher. "You'll only get credit for the penny."

"God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). We must give willingly and in love if we want our giving to do any good and if we expect any credit for it from the Lord.