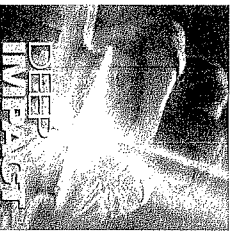


## “RELEASING THE RESOURCES”

2 Corinthians 9:6-15



*“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message; that all of them may be one. Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” – John 17:20-21*

### Illustr.: “Working Security at Youth Camp”

- 2 guys the 1st night wheels every hour
- Reverse route 2nd night; 1 on foot
- 3rd night - alternate hours – driving & walking
- 4th night – every 2 hours, alternate shifts
- Last night – after lights out and 2 hours later

THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM. Sometimes its “smoke and mirrors.” But God's principles are NOT smoke and mirrors – they WORK; even when they don't seem to make sense to us. At first glance through the eye of a non-believer giving our resources to God and then trusting Him to supply our needs seems ridiculous – until we realize that He gave the original resources in the first place. Now to Him, we are only trusting God to do what He has already shown us He will do. He blesses us, we invest back in Him, He brings a return – only GOD'S returns are guaranteed!

The outside world seems to think the whole Christian approach to giving is about the church getting people's money. Far from that, it is the church providing an avenue for the pouring out of one's whole life for others. And to that the world would probably say, “And that's somehow BETTER???!?” Well yes, it is as a matter of fact, for it is in blessing others and blessing God that we see He greatest blessings for us and find our faith proven real!

God's economy seems upside down, but it makes total sense!

### I. Our RETURN is determined by our INVESTMENT.

(vs 6)

- No matter how large or small the interest, our return is only a multiple of our original investment.

### II. Our ATTITUDE affects our BROKER.

(w 7-9)

- How's your RELATIONSHIP with your Broker?

### III. Pouring out the OLD RETURNS makes room for NEW ONES.

(w 10-11)

- We settle for the blessings of the past if we don't make room for God to bring more.
- How many of us ever say, “No, that's enough miracles, God!”? Maybe more than we think!

### IV. Our investments ultimately AFFECT

OTHERS as well as BLESS US! (w 12-15)

- It affects others' opinion of God's faithfulness
- It affects others' opinion of our faith
- Our service to others will result in their prayers for us and God now blesses US through other people!

The church has a GOING problem – it needs to go TO others, go OUTSIDE its four walls, go beyond its comfort level and go above its own ability to supply!

### *My Decision:*

Lord, help me pour out my life to make room for a FAITH that fills me to OVERFLOWING!