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We can Impact the World 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

In Philippians 4 and 2 Corinthians 7 & 8, we are told of 3 churches that impacted the Roman Empire for Jesus Christ. They were not mega churches like Corinth and Ephesus. The churches in Philippi, Berea, and Thessalonica probably had an average attendance of hundreds of people, not thousands.

Some might wonder,... how does impacting the world help me right now with my problems.... In the hardest times of life – financial pressures, cancer diagnosis, loneliness, God shows up to do His greatest work in our hearts especially when we join with others to impact the world.

God gives us simple Biblical commands that can not only change your day, but also your outlook, attitude, and world.

Impact the World by...

1. Practicing the _____ of Encouragement.

- A. *Encouragement is a _____ to obey, not an option to weigh.*

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify [encourage] one another, even as also ye do."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

To encourage another means to lift the load, exhort, or comfort. It carries the idea of giving courage and strength – putting wind in someone's sails.

"Encouragement is the oxygen for the soul."

George M. Adams

It may be as simple as a call, an email, text, or a card.

B. Encouragement is to be given to others

"But exhort [encourage] one another daily, while it is called Today..."

Hebrews 3:13a

C. Encouragement neglected can _____ your heart.

"... lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

Hebrews 3:13b

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When New Years Resolutions are Broken... What Do I Do?

Impact the World by...



2. _____ regularly for our
Missionaries

The heart's cry of every missionary is...

"Brethren, pray for us."

1 Thessalonians 5:23

When we pray for our missionaries, we enter into their ministries, their successes, and their burdens. We are partners with them and with Jesus Christ. Use our Wed prayer list & Sunday bulletin.

"For we are laborers together with God."

1 Corinthians 3:9

Impact the World by...

3. _____ of yourself to share the
Gospel.

Selfishness is the fruit of an unbelieving heart. When you feel guilt and you realize that you cannot go to heaven with your sin and finally understand that your sin is against the holiness of God, and the penalty for your sin is death – spiritual death – and separation from God forever, then you discover that everything you need and want is in Jesus Christ – forgiveness, love, relationship with God, and an eternal home in heaven, then you can joyfully turn to Him with all of your heart and receive His gift of salvation. You trade a heart of selfishness for a heart of love.

"God is love."

1 John 4:8

"For God so loved the world that He GAVE His only begotten Son."
John 3:16a

A. Give yourself to God, v. 5a

"but first gave their own selves to the Lord."
2 Corinthians 8:5a

You were _____ by God...
For God!

What does it mean to give yourself to God? Romans 12:1-2.

In the OT, God required the Jews to offer _____. When a Jewish man or woman offered an animal sacrifice, they were demonstrating outwardly what they believed in their heart – that God had atoned or forgiven their sins. They gave of their flocks, their wealth, and their assets to demonstrate a believing heart. The blood of lambs did not wash away sins... it postponed the judgment of sin until Jesus – the Lamb of God – came, shed His blood, and became the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world.

B. Give yourself to Others, v. 5b

"gave their own selves..., and unto us by the will of God."
2 Corinthians 8:5b

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Acts 20:35

Are you giving yourself to others? Don't be a hermit!

C. Give of your finances as a Missionary Offering

"For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power...with much intreaty that we would receive the gift."
2 Corinthians 8:3-4

One commentator said, "Though desperately poor, they joyfully gave offerings far beyond their means. I was there and saw it for myself. They begged us to let them participate in this offering."

VFB 2025 Impact on the World

- 16 new missionaries
- 263 missionaries and projects supported
- 88 countries
- 2 mission trips
- 1 well dug (in Zimbabwe).

When you are getting a little discouraged, or tired, or feeling defeated by health issues or financial pressures, remember... you are impacting the world for Jesus Christ.

In 2026, we have 4 mission trips planned.

See Pastor Wayne Cooper for more information... to Fiji, Zimbabwe, Vancouver, and Nova Scotia (VBS trip). You can also lend a hand with our new church plant with Pastor Joe & Katie Delp, ChristLife Baptist Church in Roxborough – March 15.

God's message to the Philippian Christians about their giving to God's work from Philippians 4.

- 1) Give from the _____, v. 10.
- 2) Give as God gives you opportunity, v. 10.
- 3) Give to those who serve, v. 14.
- 4) Give consistently, v. 16.
- 5) Give and receive heavenly rewards, v. 17.
- 6) Give generously, v. 18.
- 7) Give as a sacred act of _____, v. 18.
- 8) Give and your "needs will be supplied," v. 19.

***What has God given you to give to Him and others?
When you give, you _____ the world!***

Notes about Giving at our Church Family

- 1) No one is "pressured" to give financially... ever!
- 2) The pastors (staff and people) do not know what others give.

We have a very small number of those who deposit offerings and they hold discretion with the highest integrity.

- 3) The motive for giving is obedience and love (Matt. 6:19-21), not the promise of a sports car or a summer beach house (as charismatic TV preachers claim).
- 4) Our church finances are review and analyzed by church leaders (staff and deacons) and an outside accountant (with an annual CPA review). The church family votes and approves the annual budget.

2026 Budget is available at the Welcome Desk.

- 5) Quarterly Income and Expense statements are ALWAYS posted for our church family to review (bulletin board on lower level).