

Obedience Trumps Self-Doubt

Description

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2 Corinthians 8:1-9

After hearing Paul's lavish compliment that the Corinthians excelled in *everything*, how could they refuse his request? How do we know if love is the basis of our giving? Are our motives always pure when it comes to giving? Is it wrong to have ulterior motives?

In my early teaching career a faculty member experienced a whiplash injury and returned to work wearing a neck brace. I thought about preparing some food for her and her husband. Then the struggle started—what was my motive for doing this? Would she think I was seeking her favor? Wonder if they did not like cherry pie and gelatin salad? What would other faculty think if they saw me bringing in this food?

In a defiant voice I finally said, "I don't care what my motive is, I am going to bake that pie and make that salad." A day later she returned my carrier and wrote, "How did you know cherry is my husband's favorite pie? How great it was to go home, fix some meat, and have a meal ready."

This was a watershed experience for me. It has prompted many more meals for others. I'm still not always sure of my motives.

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