

The following article that appeared in *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide is based on William Ernest Cox, son of Francis Marion Cox and Iola Pearl Sims and uncle of Joe B. Cox.

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Out of Our Abundance

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

— 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)

Recently my wife's 102-year-old uncle died. At his funeral his family and friends remarked about his simple-yet-happy life. He always had a roof over his head, clothes to wear, and enough to eat and drink. That's all Uncle Ernie wanted. His example made me consider how we are unwilling to acknowledge the difference between what we need and what we want.

Jesus said we should not store up treasure on earth because, if we do, then that is where our hearts will be. (See Matt. 6:19-21.) John wrote that if we do not share our possessions, God is not in us. (See 1 John 3:17-19.) Uncle Ernie did not share a lot of possessions because he did not have many. But he always shared his time by listening to other people's stories and troubles and helping in any way he could.

Many of us spend time pursuing entertainment, recreation, or relaxation. We are not willing to spend time helping those who are lonely, physically or spiritually sick, or in prison. Jesus did not ask us to share the time or possessions we need, only the extras that exist between what we need and what we have. Jesus said that if we love our neighbor, we love God.

Prayer: Dear God, we have so much more than we need! Help us to share with others. Amen.

Thought for the Day

Today I will share the difference between what I need and what I have.

Patrick Reardon (Texas) — See back cover.