

Cheerful Generosity

2 Corinthians 9:

⁶Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows with blessing will also reap with blessing. ⁷Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make every grace abound to you, so that in everything at every time having every sufficiency, you may have an abundance for every good deed; ⁹as it is written,

“He scattered abroad, he gave to the needy, His righteousness stands forever.”

¹⁰Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness; ¹¹you will be enriched in everything for all generosity, which through us is bringing about thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also abounding through many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Because of the proven character given by this ministry, they will glorify God for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the generosity of your giving toward them and toward all, ¹⁴while they also, by prayer on your behalf, long for you because of the surpassing grace of God on you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Topic: God has given us an indescribably great gift! We are saved by His gracious gift—God the Father sent God the Son to live a perfect life, to die sacrificially in our place, and to be raised again, God the Father and God the Son sent God the Spirit to indwell us and lead us toward greater Christlikeness. Because of His good gift, we who follow Him should likewise be generous and give.

- Why is the case that he who sows sparingly will only reap sparingly and that he who sows generously/with blessing will reap generously/with blessing? (See Matthew 6:19-21)
- The Law pointed to the fact that our hearts are not without God. A tithe (10%) is a good starting Point (See Malachi 3:8-10). How can we rightly purpose in our hearts how much to give? (See Galatians 5:18, and 5:25)
- How does 2 Corinthians 9:8 fit with Ephesians 2:8-10?

Association: Money is a fickle master. God is a far better master. (See Matthew 6:24-33)

- Do you consider yourself a generous person? How so?
- Do you give to God's kingdom work cheerfully?
- Do you pray about how much to give?
- When have you thanked God for the generosity of His people?
- Have others thanked God for your generosity?

Guidance: Sow generously, give cheerfully, seek the Spirit's leading on these matters

- Pray that the Spirit will lead you to focus more on His righteousness.
- Pray that the Spirit will lead you the amount He wants you cheerfully to give?
- Pray with and more each other regarding growing a harvest of generosity.