

Sermon: Generosity; Delivered by: Dr. Josh Moody, senior pastor. Date: October 21, 2018

Bible text explored: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.” ^[a]

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

^[a] *Psalm 112:9*

[ESV]

Review and application:

1. What factors cause “communication static” when financial matters are raised in church?
Are these valid reasons for avoiding the subject?
Did Jesus deal with this topic? (See *Matt. 19:21-24* and *Mark 12:41-44*.)
2. In this letter to the church at Corinth, what was Paul’s surface reason for dealing thoroughly with the issue of giving? (See *Rom. 15:25-27*.)
What did Paul also hope that a generous Gentile gift would demonstrate to the famine-stricken Jewish church in Jerusalem? (See *Rom. 11:17*.)
3. How does Paul use a basic farming principle to show that giving isn’t really sustaining a loss but, rather, making an investment? (See also *Luke 6:38*.)
Why (v. 7) should giving be seen as an opportunity to grasp rather than as a duty to reluctantly accept?
How will shaping your own giving plan shield you from sob stories and arm-twisting?
4. How should God’s generosity (indicted by the words *all*, *abound*, and *every* in v. 8) encourage us to cultivate generosity?
5. What satisfaction should you experience (vv. 8-11) as your investment produces a “harvest of . . . righteousness”?
Can you see how sowing sparingly means missing out on enrichment that God intends for you?
Are you open to testing the validity of these verses on a trial basis?
6. How (vv. 12-14) does the generosity encourage people to see the gospel at work?
7. What (v. 15) is the ultimate motivation for our giving?
(See *John 3:16*; *2 Cor. 8:9*; *1 John 4:11*.)