

Graced to Give: Part 4

This gospel of Jesus Christ motivates every duty of the Christian life, especially our giving. Our sermon text teaches that generous giving unleashes manifold blessings to the giver, to our neighbors, and to our Lord!

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

6 The point is this:

whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

8 And 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.

9 As it is written,
“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

10 He 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.

11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way,
which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints
but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

13 By 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,

14 while they long for you and pray for you,
because of the surpassing grace of God upon you.

15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

I. The Lord blesses the Generous (II Corinthians 9:6-11)

- A. The Blessings the Generous Receive
- B. The Attitude the Generous Display
- C. The Assurance the Generous Have

II. The Lord blesses the Neighbors of the Generous (II Corinthians 9:9-11)

- A. The Intended Use of Money
- B. The Intended Purpose of More

III. The Lord blesses Himself through the generosity of His people (II Corinthians 9:12-14)

- A. Conspicuous Blessings
- B. Multiplied Worshipers
- C. Grace of Obedience
- D. United Hearts

Discussion Questions

1. What tends to motivate your giving to the Lord and His enterprises? According to II Corinthians 9:15, what should be our ultimate motivation? What is His inexpressible gift? Refer back to II Corinthians 8:9.
2. There are two type of givers contrasted in 9:5-7. First of all, how would you explain how we are not to give? Then, how are we to give? You might click the link below and discover the meaning of the original words in verse 7, especially the words for “reluctant or grudgingly” and “cheerful.” https://www.blueletterbible.org/esv/2co/9/5/t_conc_1087007 Click on the Strong’s Concordance #s to discover the original meaning of these words.
3. Some people teach that giving money to the Lord's work results in you getting more money yourself. Is this supported biblically? What does Paul say about the personal benefits of giving (9:6, 11a, 14)? Compare Luke 6:38.
4. What do you make of his disproportionate amount of space allotted to the benefits of liberality for those who are asked to give (see 9:6-11)?
5. Paul encourages cheerful giving (v. 7). The word for cheerful in the original is our English word “hilarious.” Paul basically says: Don’t give till it hurts, give till it tickles. This approach is the exact opposite of calculated giving under compulsion. Therefore, what one thing could you do to become more of a cheerful giver?
6. What are the benefits that accrue to the recipients of our generosity (v. 12a)?
7. What are the benefits that our Lord receives from our generosity (vv. 11b, 12b, 13)? Generous giving will “produce thanksgiving to God” (v. 11b); it will overflow “in many thanksgivings to God” (v. 12b); and you will “glorify God by your obedience” (v. 13).
8. Pray the following for yourself and for the members of your group:
A renewed lifestyle that expresses grace, that holds onto possessions loosely, and that finds joy in giving.

Going Deeper

1. To sow generously implies giving until it actually lowers our current lifestyle. What would it take to lower your lifestyle?

2. Reflect on and talk through this challenging word from C.S. Lewis in his classic, Mere Christianity:

"I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give.

I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.

In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc, is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little.

If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small.

There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditure excludes them."

3. How do you think these OT passages might have influenced the Apostle's Paul view on giving?

Malachi 3:10—"Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing;"

Proverbs 11:24-25—"One man gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. A liberal man will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered;"

Prov. 9:17—"He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."