

SESSION 5: GENEROUSLY SHARED

Passage: **2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. **7** Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

Key Idea: **What We Give Matters.**

Whoever sows generously will also reap generously

Our giving matters for several reasons, but one of those is the simple idea that what we put in is what we get out. As we give towards the things of God, we in turn will be blessed in seeing God work through our giving.

Proverbs 19:17

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.

Discussion Questions

1. How can you adjust your giving habits to align more closely with the principles of sowing generously and reaping bountifully, as outlined in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8?
2. Reflect on the reasons behind your giving. Are there any motives that need to be realigned to reflect a cheerful heart in giving?
3. Share with the group a recent example of when you gave cheerfully and how it affected your heart and attitude toward giving.
4. Identify a specific area or cause in which you can increase your giving with a sense of purpose and intentionality.

Key Idea: **What It Means to Give Freely**

God loves a cheerful giver

Giving freely is an expression of love and reflects the selflessness and grace that God has shown us, as demonstrated through the ultimate gift of His Son, Jesus Christ who gave Himself up freely in obedience to the Heavenly Father (John 10:18).

Proverbs 11:24-25

*One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. **25** A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways can you actively seek opportunities to sow generously, whether through financial giving, acts of service, or giving of your time and talents?
2. In what ways can we practically apply the concept of purposeful and intentional giving in our church and community?
3. Reflect on any fears or doubts you may have about giving sacrificially. How can you surrender these concerns to God and trust in His provision?

Key Idea: **What God Can Provide**

Bless you abundantly

God's capacity to bless and provide for His people goes far beyond our human comprehension. He cares for us deeply and desires to bless us abundantly.

Ephesians 3:20-21

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss the relationship between our attitudes in giving and God's promise to provide for our needs. How does trust play a role in this dynamic?
2. Consider ways to be more creative and intentional in your giving, especially in areas where there is a significant need.
3. Discuss the concept of spiritual blessings resulting from our generous acts of giving. How can we be open to recognizing and receiving these blessings in our lives?
4. Share with the group practical ways you have seen giving impact the lives of those who received it, and also how it transformed the giver.

Key Idea: **What God Has Already Provided**

Having all that you need

God is a loving and attentive Father who has already provided for our essential needs. Instead of worrying and being anxious about material needs, we are encouraged to trust in His care and focus on seeking His Kingdom and living righteously. This perspective shifts our attention from material concerns to spiritual priorities, cultivating a deeper relationship with God and aligning our lives with His will.

Matthew 6:21, 32-33

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ... 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Discussion Questions

1. How can you encourage one another in your small group to live generous lives?

2. Take time to pray together as a group, thanking God for His provision and guidance in giving, and seeking His wisdom in stewarding our resources with generosity and wisdom.
3. Reflect on the impact of your giving on the lives of those who received it. How can you continue to be a blessing to others through your generosity?
4. In what way(s) is generosity a spiritual training ground? If our hearts follow our treasure, how can we use money to help direct our hearts to the Lord?

Leadership Resources:

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/2-corinthians-9/>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/2-corinthians/passage/?q=2+corinthians+9:6-8>

Additional Questions for Consideration:

1. Living a generous life is not limited to just financial transactions. What are other characteristics of true generosity in the life of a follower of Christ?
2. According to 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, what principles govern the act of sowing and reaping? How do these principles apply to our spiritual lives as well as our giving?
3. Reflect on a time when you experienced the truth of sowing generously and reaping bountifully in your life. How did this impact your perspective on giving?
4. How does a cheerful heart in giving reflect our understanding of God's grace and provision in our lives?
5. Share testimonies of how God has blessed you as a result of your generous giving, whether financially or in other areas of your life.
6. How can we avoid a mindset of scarcity and fear in our giving, and instead cultivate a heart of abundance and faith in God's provision?
7. Reflect on the difference between giving out of obligation versus giving willingly and eagerly. How can we encourage one another to give with joy?
8. How can we overcome any hesitations or reservations we may have about giving sacrificially to God's work and to others in need?

9. Discuss the concept of proportionate giving and how it relates to the resources and blessings God has entrusted to us.
10. How can we make giving a regular part of our spiritual worship and expression of gratitude toward God?
11. As a group, brainstorm ways to encourage and support one another in living out the principles of cheerful and generous giving.
12. How will you ensure that your giving is proportionate and consistent with the blessings and resources God has provided to you?
13. Share with the group a testimony of when you experienced a spiritual blessing as a result of your generous giving.
14. Discuss the difference between giving as an obligation versus giving as an act of worship. How will you approach your giving with a heart of worship and gratitude?
15. As a small group, discuss ways you can collectively participate in generous giving, whether through a special offering, fundraising event, or community outreach project.