



## Today's Scripture

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 NIV

<sup>6</sup>Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”  
<sup>10</sup>Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

<sup>12</sup>This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup>Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. <sup>14</sup>And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!



## Soul Food

### GOING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

You are encouraged to read verses before and after the selected passages.

**Sunday:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 5G living can change your life.

**Monday:** 2 Cor. 8:1-9 Excel in this grace of giving (generosity in action).

**Tuesday:** Isaiah 26:10 Grace rejected (Why the world is as it is.).

**Wed:** Ephesians 1:1-14 God's generous grace is ours.

**Thursday:** Eph. 2:6-10 Grace leads to good works.

**Friday:** Colossians 2:6-7 Live a life overflowing with thanksgiving.

**Saturday:** Col. 3:13-17 Gratitude in your heart toward God.

### *Praying God's Word*

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

- Thank God for His ample provision to you/Trinity.
- Praise God for His grace that overflows
- Ask God to help you & Trinity to excel in generosity so thanksgiving to God will be real and plentiful.
- Pray for an attitude of gratitude to percolate here at Trinity.
- Beg God that you & Trinity will be obedient so He will be praised.
- Thank God for His indescribable gift.

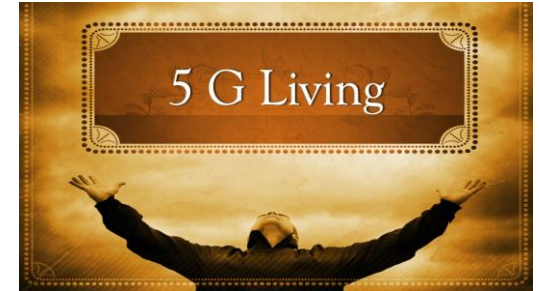
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### Sermon Notes



Big Idea: God's generous grace in our life grows gratitude that changes you and others.

**This week's memory verse:**  
2 Corinthians 9:10-11a NIV

<sup>10</sup>Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion...

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

James 1:22 (NIV)

## Your Life in Light of the Word

Have you ever been on the receiving side of a generous person? How did it make you feel?

How is giving (generosity) like planting seeds?

Grace, generosity and gratitude apply to more than mere finances. How can you cultivate these biblical values and put them into practice?

If you were to increase grace, generosity and gratitude in your life, what dividends might you see?

How is the presence of significant personal conflict an absence of grace, generosity and gratitude?

The Apostle Paul is writing to people who had decided to help another church. Why is forethought important in determining what you will give to God through Trinity Evangelical Free Church?

How is the decision process in giving tied to worship and God's glory?

Discuss: This passage implies that the purpose of living is not to amass possessions, but to eliminate need. How does this idea differ from what we hear in society? What precautions would need to be in place to prevent abuse by some who want to live on the work of others?

Would God have you give a special gift to Trinity before year's end to help us meet or exceed the budget? If so, how much would He have you give for His glory?

The result of cheerfully giving to God is thanksgiving being poured out to Him and the giver. Thank you for your generous gifts to what God is doing here at Trinity. To Him be the glory!

## Greedy Birds

Our Daily Bread

Every year when I put out the hummingbird feeder, the busy little birds start battling for position. Even though there are four places at the "table," the birds fight for whatever place one of their neighbors is using. The source of food at each place is the same—a reservoir of syrup in the bottom of the feeder. Knowing that all the feeding stations are equal, I shake my head at their greediness.

But then I wonder, *Why is it so much easier to see the greed of the birds than it is to see my own?* I often want the place at "God's table" that someone else has, even though I know all good things come from the same source—God—and that His supply will never run out. Since God can prepare a table for us even in the presence of our enemies (Ps. 23:5), why be concerned that someone else might have the station in life that we want?

The Lord is able to give us "all sufficiency in all things" so that we will have "an abundance for every good work" (2 Cor. 9:8). When we recognize the importance of our work as ministers of the grace of God (1 Peter 4:10), we'll stop fighting to take over someone else's position and be grateful for the place God has given us to serve others on His behalf.

### *Reflect & Prayer*

Thank You for the privilege we have to serve You by serving others, Lord. Help us to be content to fill the place where You have put us, so that You might be glorified through us.

**Resentment comes from looking at others; contentment comes from looking at God.**