

The Abounding Grace of Giving

2 Corinthians 9:6-10

Ps 24:1-2 The earth is the LORD's and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein, for He has founded it...

1 Pet 4:10-11 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Mt 6:21 Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1 Tim 6:17 As for the rich... charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy...

Eccl 5:10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income.

1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Prov 30:8-9 ... give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

Deut 8:17-18 Beware lest you say in your heart, "My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth." You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth...

Ex 20:9 Six days shall you labor and do all your work

Prov 14:23 In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.

2 Thess 3:10-12 If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

2 Cor 9:6-10 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.

I. Sowing with Blessing

a. Rooted in the concept of stewardship

Luke 12:42-43 And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household... Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

b. Proportional to your means and sacrificial

2 Cor 8:12 ...according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

1 Cor 16:2 On the first day of the week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

Prov 3:9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce.

Ex 23:19 The best of your first fruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.

2 Cor 8:2-3 ...their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means... and beyond their means, of their own accord.

2 Cor 8:7 But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also.

c. Planned & systematic

2 Cor 9:6-10 ...as he has decided in his heart.

1 Cor 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper...

d. Discreetly without seeking recognition

Mt 6:1-2 Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do ..., that they may be praised by others.

e. Free from internal and external pressure

2 Cor 9:7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Cor 9:5 (LSB) So I regarded it necessary to encourage the brothers that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised blessing, so that the same would be ready as a blessing and not as a begrudging obligation.

f. Motivated by love, gratitude, and cheerfulness

2 Cor. 9:7 ...for God loves a cheerful giver.

Luk 6:38 ...give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

II. Reaping with Blessing

2 Cor 8:3-4 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints...

2 Cor 8:5 ...and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

2 Cor 8:1-2 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

a. The Blessings of Meeting Needs

2 Cor 8:4 The churches in Macedonia begged "earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints..."

2 Cor 9:1-2 Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them.

b. The Blessings of Thanksgivings to God

2 Cor 9:11-12 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

c. The blessings of God's power

2 Cor 9:8 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.

d. The blessings of resupplying the seed for sowing

2 Cor 9:10-11 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. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

III. All by the Surpassing Grace of God

2 Cor 8:1 We want you to know about the grace of God that has been given!

2 Cor 8:7 ...see that you excel in this act of grace...

2 Cor 8:9 For (we) know **the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

2 Cor 9:8 And God is able to **make all grace abound** in you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

2 Cor 9:13-15 Because 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 fellowship toward them and toward all others, while **they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!**

Conclusion

- **Generous, proportional, sacrificial, joyful, eager, planned, regular, discrete giving** flows from a heart that has experienced **the surpassing grace of God found in Jesus Christ!**
- *Excelling in that act of grace* produces the
 - ... blessings of **meeting needs...**
 - ...of **thanksgivings** to God,
 - ... of experiencing God's **power**,
 - ...and the blessing of **resupplying seed** for further sowing

It produces a cheerful heart, which pleases God!
- Generous giving, rightly understood, flows out as a product of the **surpassing grace of God found in the gospel.**
Abounding generosity is a direct response to Christ's own sacrificial giving of Himself.

God is faithful in provision... He supplies all our needs. He supplies the seed for sowing.