

SERMON NOTES:

VOL 4: Part 34: Partnership in the Gospel: Generosity & Prayer

BIG Idea: Gospel partnership thrives through generous giving and earnest prayer.

Application: We are called to participate in God's mission through sacrificial generosity and intercessory prayer that advances the gospel and unites the Church.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2025.

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Gospel partnership thrives through generous giving and earnest prayer.

I. The Mission Belongs to God Alone (vv. 22-24)

Romans 15:22-23 (NLT) *Paul's Travel Plans*

²² In fact, my visit to you has been delayed so long because I have been preaching in these places.

²³ But now I have finished my work in these regions, and after all these long years of waiting, I am eager to visit you.

Romans 15:17-18 (NLT)

¹⁷ So I have reason to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to God. ¹⁸ Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them.

"Successful ministry is always God's doing. God chose him, prepared him, and gave him the ministry, and empowers it. All is of grace." ~ Douglas Moo

The mission belongs to God alone.

If the mission starts with me, it ends with me – but if it starts with God, it endures forever.

Romans 15:24 (NLT)

²⁴ I am planning to go to Spain, and when I do, I will stop off in Rome. And after I have enjoyed your fellowship for a little while, you can provide for my journey.

II. Generosity is Gospel Work (vv. 25-29)

Romans 15:24 (NLT)

²⁵ But before I come, I must go to Jerusalem to take a gift to the believers there. ²⁶ For you see, the believers in Macedonia and Achaia have eagerly taken up an offering for the poor among the believers in Jerusalem. ²⁷ They were glad to do this because they feel they owe a real debt to them. Since the Gentiles received the spiritual blessings of the Good News from the believers in Jerusalem, they feel the

least they can do in return is to help them financially. ²⁸ As soon as I have delivered this money and completed this good deed of theirs, I will come to see you on my way to Spain. ²⁹ And I am sure that when I come, Christ will richly bless our time together.

1. **Stewardship over ownership.**
2. **Necessity before luxury.**
3. **Community care.**
4. **Outward compassion.**

Galatians 6:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

5. **Poverty alleviation.**

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT)

¹⁷ Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. ¹⁹ By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

6. **Rejecting hoarding.**
7. **Rethinking priorities.**

Generosity is not charity – it's partnership.

"Christians are not the owners of anything they have but only stewards of God's property." ~ Ben Witherington III

Grace opens our hands to give; love keeps them open.

"Since money earned as salary or wages is indeed 'coined life,' when one gives his money to help meet the needs of others, it is truly an act of fellowship, of sharing one's very life." ~ Jack Cottrell

Generosity is gospel work.

III. Prayer is the Power Behind Partnership (vv. 30-33)

Romans 15:30-33 (NLT)

³⁰ Dear brothers and sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to join in my struggle by praying to God for me. Do this because of your love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit. ³¹ Pray that I will be rescued from those in Judea who refuse to obey God. Pray also that the believers there will be willing to accept the donation I am taking to Jerusalem. ³² Then, by the will of God, I will be able to come to you with a joyful heart, and we will be an encouragement to each other.

³³ And now may God, who gives us his peace, be with you all. Amen.

Prayer is the power behind partnership.

1. For protection (v. 31a)
2. For acceptance (v. 31b)
3. For joy and fellowship (v. 32)

Partnership in the gospel means giving what we can, praying where we can't, and trusting God to do what only He can do.