

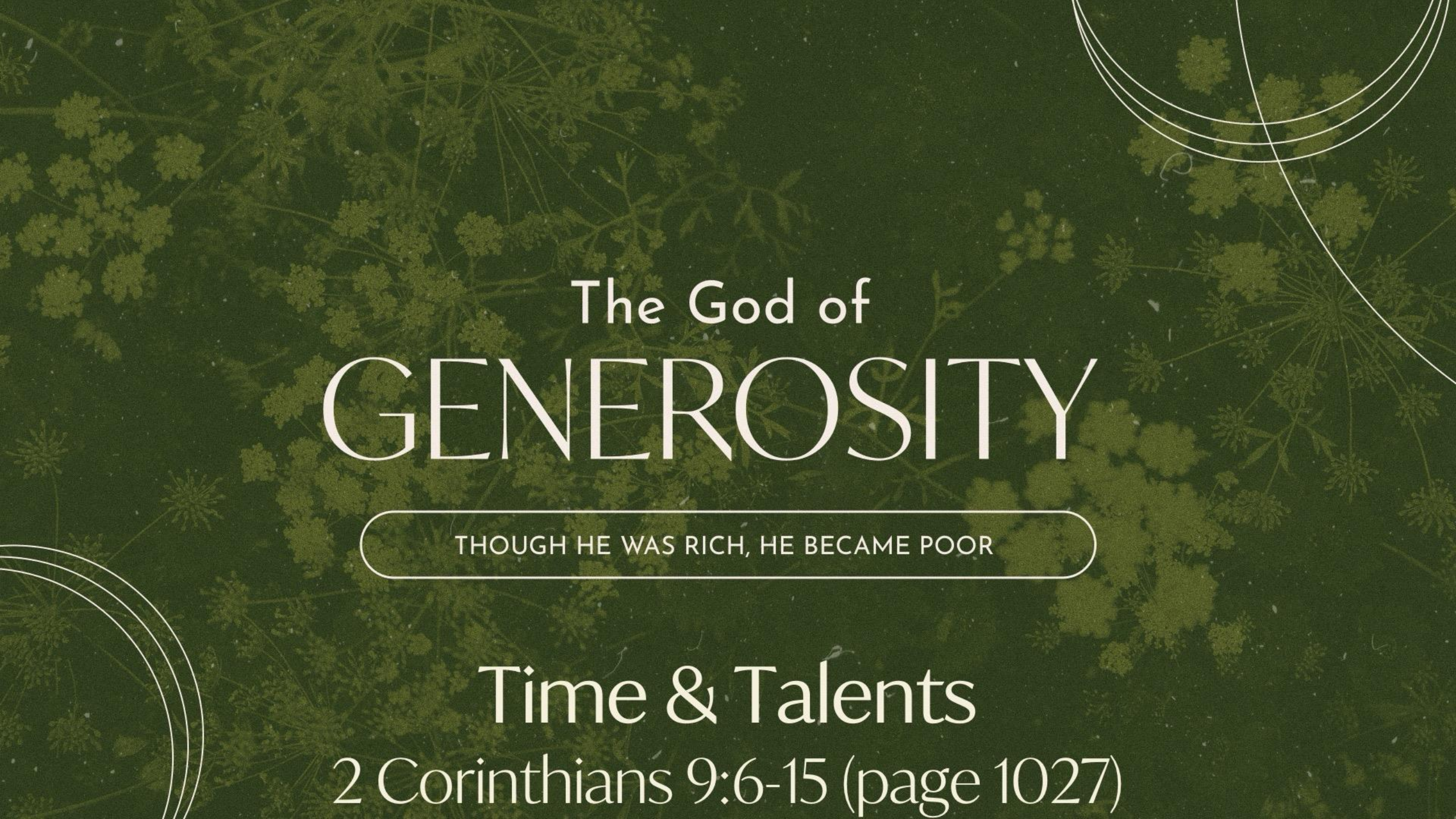
# AUGUST 17 SERVICE - OUR GENEROUS GOD

Aug 17, 2025 · Mike Strand

This week, we begin a new series looking at our generous God. As we begin this series, we'll focus on 2 Corinthians 8:9, which describes the gospel through a lens of generosity. How do we live as children of this generous God? What does it look like in our daily lives? Join us Sunday as we begin this exploration of our generous God leading to us becoming a generous people.

[SERMON SLIDES](#)[SERMON NOTES](#)[SERMON MANUSCRIPT](#)





# The God of GENEROSITY

THOUGH HE WAS RICH, HE BECAME POOR

## Time & Talents

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (page 1027)





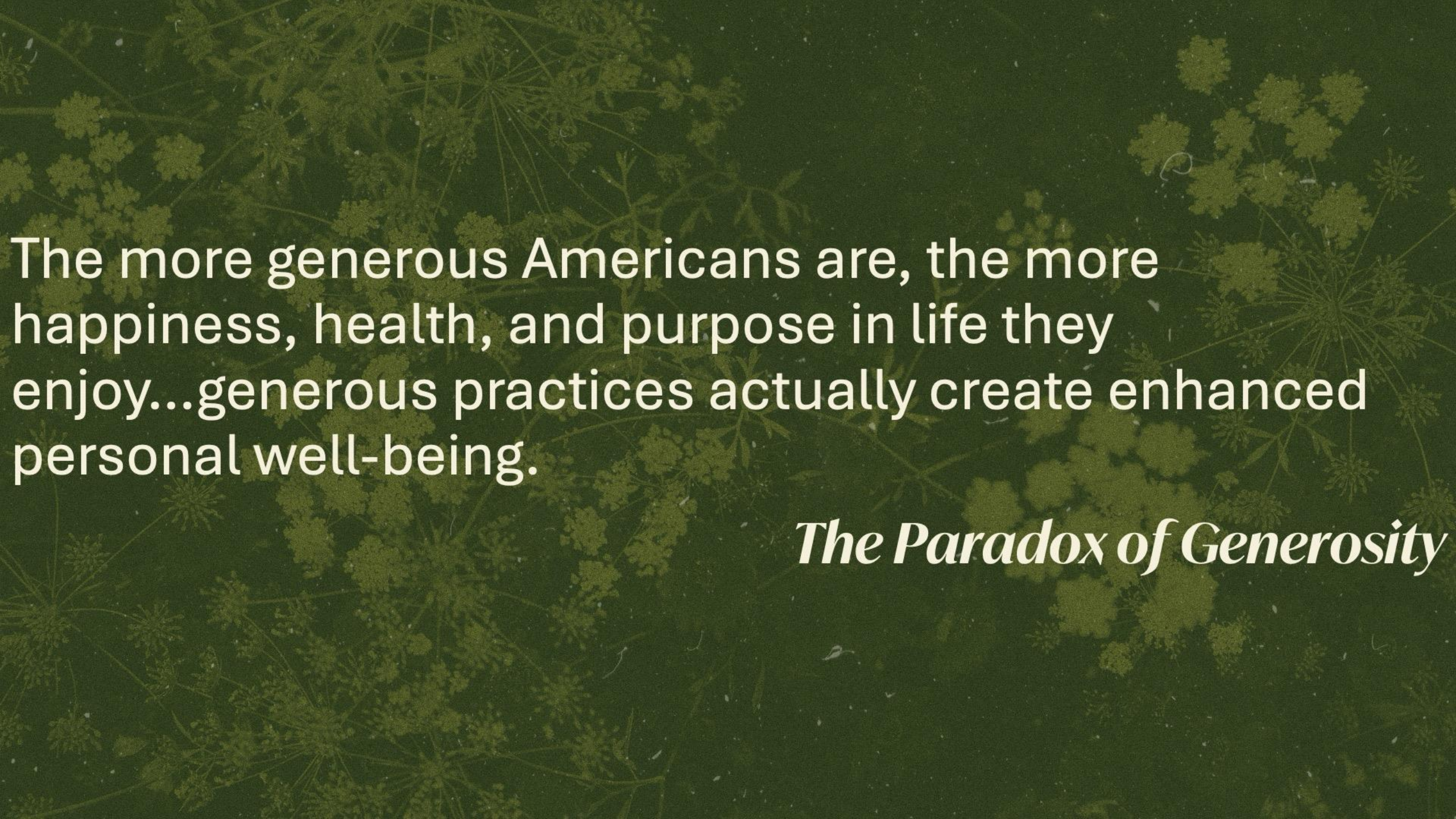
# 1) Excel in Every Good Work



<sup>6</sup>The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup>Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written:

He distributed freely;  
he gave to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever.





The more generous Americans are, the more happiness, health, and purpose in life they enjoy...generous practices actually create enhanced personal well-being.

*The Paradox of Generosity*





“A stingy Christian is a contradiction in terms. We ourselves have been gifted into new life in Christ. We have been gifted into becoming givers.”

**Dane Ortlund**

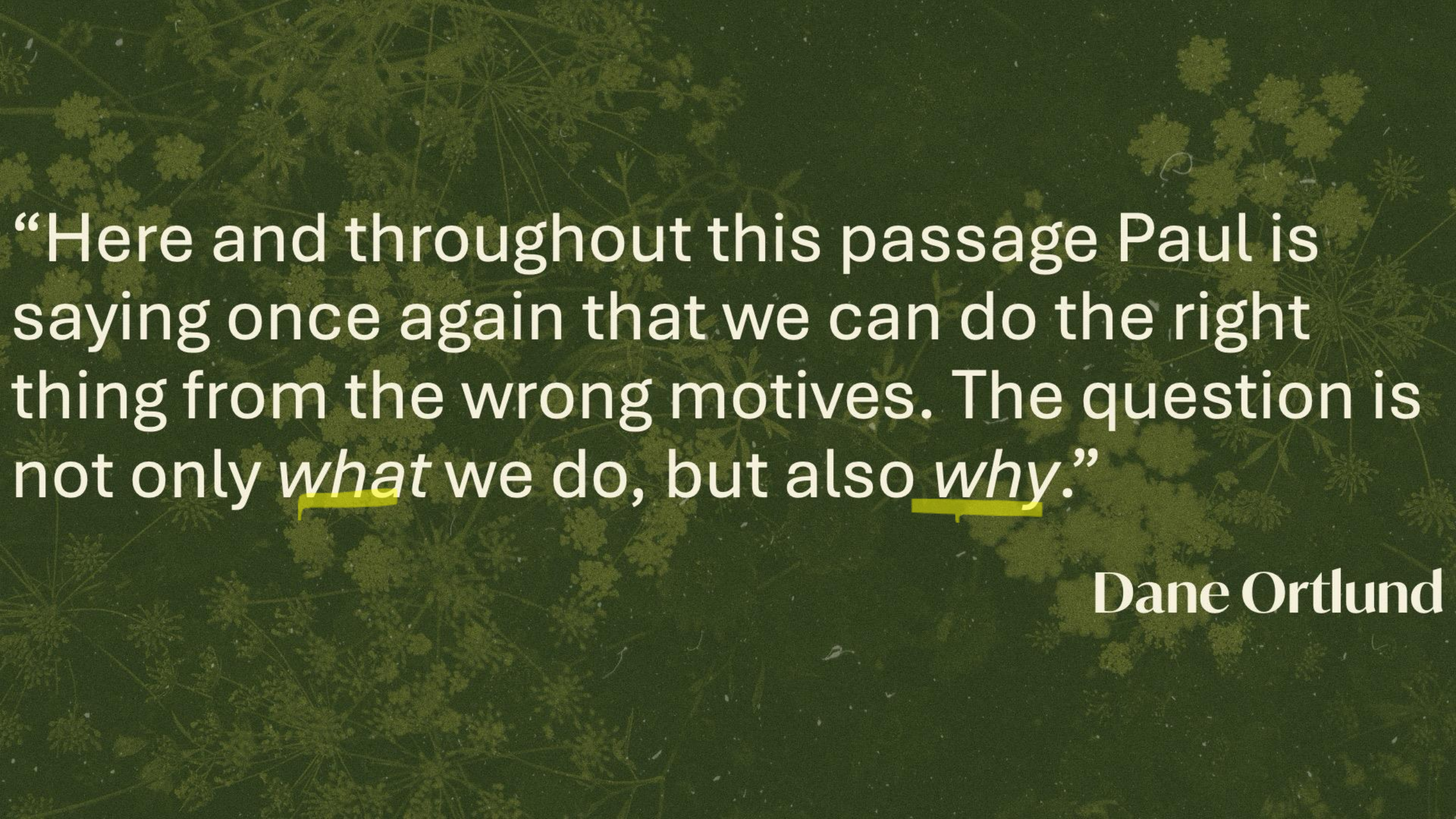


<sup>10</sup>Now the one who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will also provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us. <sup>12</sup>For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.



<sup>13</sup>Because of the proof provided by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedient confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone. <sup>14</sup>And as they pray on your behalf, they will have deep affection for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!





“Here and throughout this passage Paul is saying once again that we can do the right thing from the wrong motives. The question is not only what we do, but also why.”

Dane Ortlund



Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share, storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of what is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19



In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:19 (NIV)



I have come so that they may have life and have it  
in abundance.

John 10:10



- 
- 1) Excel in Every Good Work
  - 2) With Time (1 Thess. 2:8)















“If Geneva’s cathedral seemed a silent, impassive witness to the passing of seasons and years, her six bells—the “voices” of St. Pierre—were neither silent nor inattentive to change. In the late Middle Ages, the bells of the cathedral marked the boundaries of daily existence and heightened the drama of urban life. Bells were rung to announce the beginning (4 a.m.) and end (9 p.m.) of the day; bells called people to worship and prayer; bells sounded the alarm of plague and fire; bells celebrated the glad tidings of feast days and the arrival of distinguished visitors; bells mourned the dead.”

**Scott Manetsch**



Dear friends, don't overlook this one fact: With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:8-9



Being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:8



- 
- 1) Excel in Every Good Work
  - 2) With Time (1 Thess. 2:8)
  - 3) With Talents (Matt. 25:14-30)



**“For it is just like a man about to go on a journey. He called his own servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent, depending on each one’s ability. Then he went on a journey.”**

**Matthew 25:14-15**



**“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master’s joy.’”**

**Matthew 25:21, 23**



"His master replied to him, 'You **evil, lazy** servant! If you knew that I reap where I haven't sown and gather where I haven't scattered, then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and I would have received my money back with interest when I returned.

So take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have more than enough. But from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. And throw this **good-for-nothing** servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matt. 25:26-30



Now concerning spiritual gifts: brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be unaware...There are different gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different ministries, but the same Lord. And there are different activities, but the same God works all of them in each person. A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good

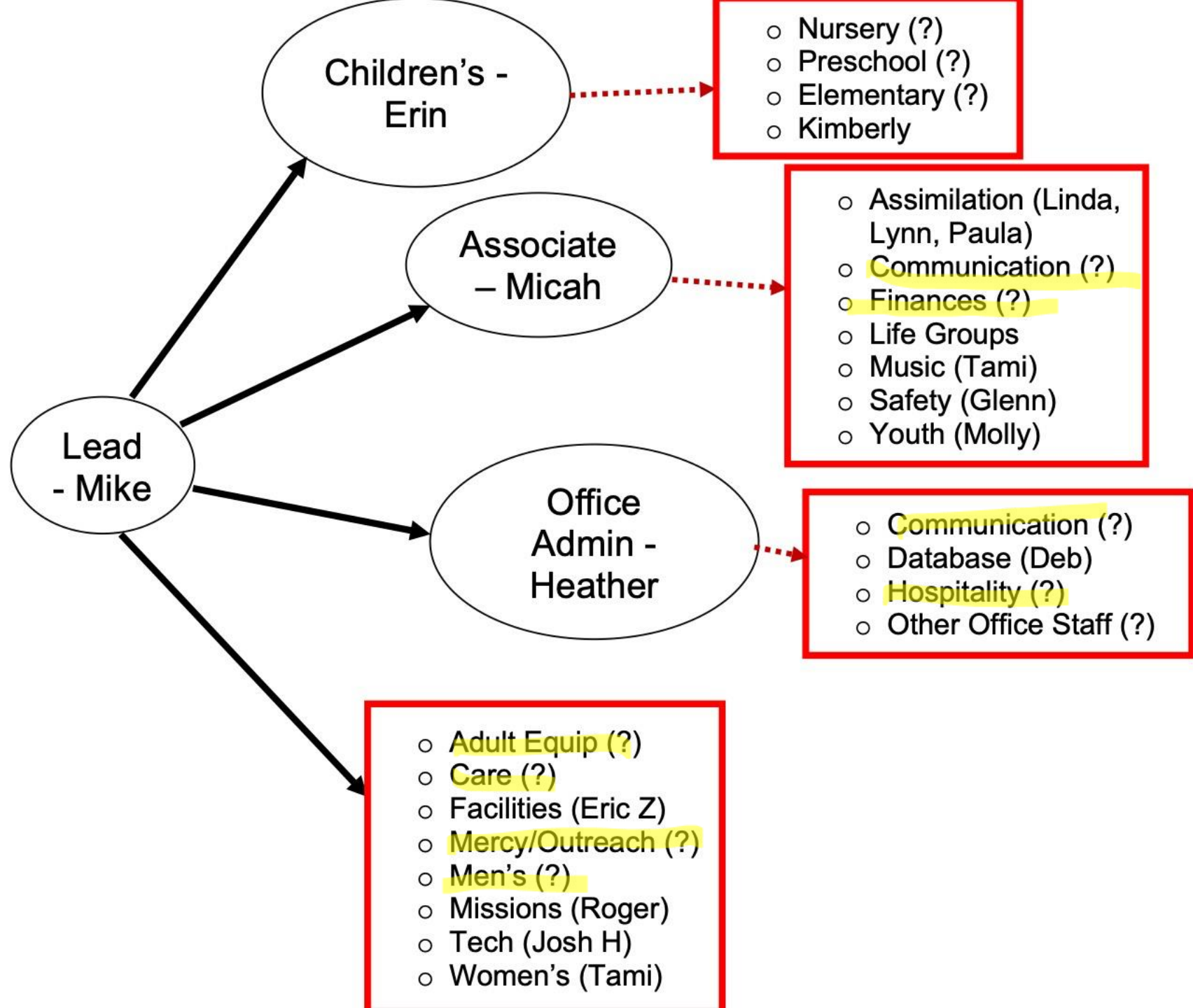
1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-7



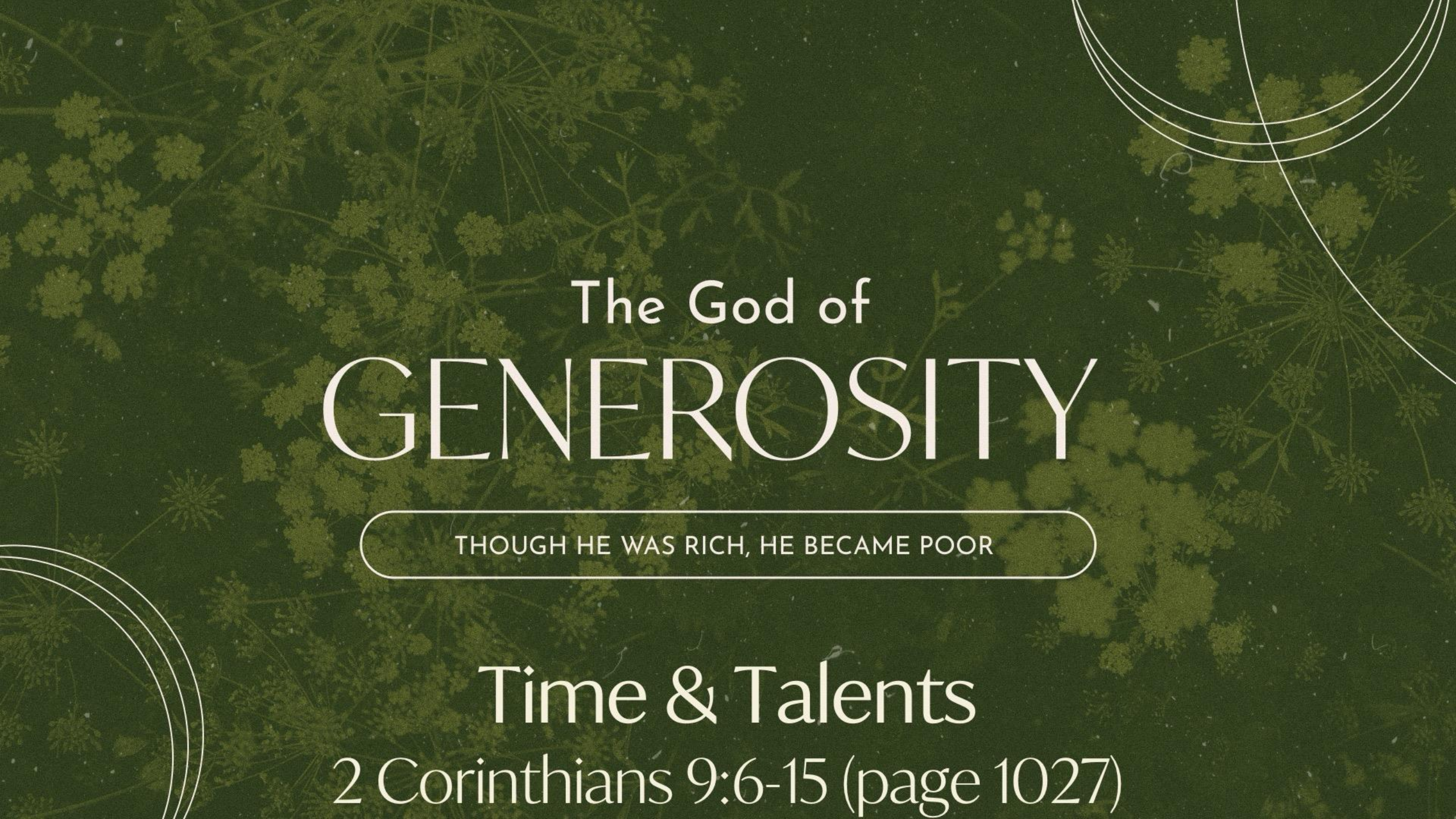
And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.

Ephesians 4:11-13









# The God of GENEROSITY

THOUGH HE WAS RICH, HE BECAME POOR

Time & Talents  
2 Corinthians 9:6-15