

SERMON NOTES AND SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 9:6–15

6 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. 9 As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”

10 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. 11 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.

12 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. 13 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. 14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Six Principles of Biblical Generosity:

- 1. Biblical generosity impacts all of life.**
- 2. Generosity manages the tension between a biblical mandate and my free will.**
- 3. Generosity is an act of giving back to God what he already owns.**
- 4. Generosity prompts God to increase our opportunity for generosity.**
- 5. Generosity glorifies God.**
- 6. Generosity is a reflection of God’s character.**

- 1. Emerging Generosity** – You contribute. You give something. You aren't just a taker. You're a giver. You want to be involved.
 - 2. First Fruits Generosity** – You joyfully and consistently set aside the first portion of your income for the Lord and his work.
 - 3. Courageous Generosity** – You are willing to be stretched beyond first fruits. You respond to opportunities to be sacrificial and impactful.
 - 4. Boundless generosity** – You actively seek out opportunities to be even more generous. You ask God to remove all barriers for maximum kingdom advancement.
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GROUP DISCUSSION

Read the passage of Scripture together as a group. Of the several points made this weekend, which ones resonate with you?

Is there a tangible way in which this week you could show that you are not living for yourself, but rather for God? Share one practical way your could do this during your upcoming week.

In what ways have you been an impulsive giver? In what ways, a deliberate giver?

Would those closest to you say that you are cheerful giver? What would it look like for you to be more cheerful in giving — not just out of a sense of obligation?

What is the next step of generosity for you and your family?

What giving phase is God leading you from and to?