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Title: JOYFUL GIVING

Main Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:7

## Start with my heart

(Ps 51:17, 78:8; 1 Pet 3:15; Mat 6:19-21, 24)

Give willingly and generously

Experience God's joy

## Lordship Prayer

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned and I acknowledge my need for You. Thank You for dying on the cross for me and I accept You as my Saviour, my Redeemer, my Deliverer and my Lord.

I choose to surrender to You and invite You now to be Lord of every area of my life:

- Lord of my spirit and my relationship with You
- Lord of my mind, my beliefs, my thoughts, and my mental health
- Lord of my emotions, my attitudes, and all my reactions
- Lord of my will and all my decisions
- Lord of my body, my health, and all my behaviour
- Lord of my eyes and upon that which I look
- Lord of my ears and to everything that I listen
- Lord of my mouth and what I speak
- Lord of my hands and all that I do
- Lord of my feet and everywhere I go
- Lord of my sexuality, my pleasure, and my recreation
- Lord of my time, my work, and my ministry
- Lord of my home, my family, and all my relationships
- Lord of the moment and manner of my death
- Lord of my possessions, my finances, and my future

Thank You that Your blood was shed that I might be set free. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit who enables me to walk in Your power. Please cleanse me by Your shed blood and fill me with Your Holy Spirit.

In Jesus' name, amen.

## Joyful Giving | October 21/22, 2023

Small Group Sermon Study | 2 Corinthians 9:7

**Prayer:** *Father, in Jesus' name, through the Holy Spirit, we invite you to come now. Speak to us, teach us, and transform us. As we read, discuss, and reflect on Your Word we seek to know and experience deeper life in You. Amen.*

**Icebreaker:** Share two things that you have to do, one that you enjoy doing, and one that you do not enjoy doing.

**Read the key passage of Scripture (2 Corinthians 9:7) from the message and review the sermon notes, then answer the following questions:**

1. As you consider the Scripture in 2 Corinthians and the message Greg shared, what thoughts or questions come to mind for you?
2. Read Matthew 6:19-21, 24 together and share how you think this invitation by Jesus might affect a Christian's attitude toward their finances.
  - a. As Greg posed in his message, how does this affect how "generously" you choose to give? i.e. Giving the bare minimum versus joyfully giving what you can.
  - b. If money is a means for accomplishing a goal, what goals are you using your finances to work towards? What goal does this passage invite us to work towards?

### Personal Reflection and Prayer

1. Joy-filled giving begins with the heart. Who is "lord over your finances"? How does your answer to "lordship" in this area affect how you manage your finances?
2. Dave Ramsey, a Christian teacher and speaker on finances, once said, "If you live like no one else now (below your means), later you can live and GIVE like no one else (generously)." What are some practical ways you could "live like no one else" so that you can give joyfully and generously?
3. In what ways do you sense the Holy Spirit challenging you in this area? How will you respond to His prompting and invitation for you today?

*Lord, help us trust You with our finances. Change our hearts toward money and spending; Leading us to be content with what You have given us. Give us the confidence to trust You in this area: Granting us generous hearts that joyfully invite others into the abundant provision You have given us. Help us to live with integrity, align our priorities to Yours, and center our thoughts on storing up eternal treasures that cannot be destroyed, and cannot be lost or stolen. Amen.*

**Prayer:** *Close in prayer together, praying for yourself and for one another, asking God to strengthen you to love Him and each other more deeply. Ask the Lord to empower your actions as you leave today.*