

## **“Encouragements for Joyful Giving”**

### **2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

**June 28, 2026**

#### **Introduction**

If you would, please turn to 2 Corinthians 9. We are in a verse-by-verse series through 2 Corinthians. Just to briefly remind ourselves where we are in this book, there was a brief introduction in Ch. 1 and then the rest of Ch. 1 through Ch. 7, Paul gave a lengthy defense of his apostolic ministry. Following that, Paul then transitions in Chs. 8–9 to speaking to the Corinthians about giving (specifically, giving to help meet the needs of the poor Christians in Jerusalem). And this morning, our passage is 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, which is the final passage in this section that is focused on giving...

#### **“2 Corinthians 9:6–15”**

If you could schedule a 1-on-1 consultation with God about the topic of financial giving, what would you want to know? What questions would you want to ask Him? Maybe you would want to ask: “How much should I give?” “If I sacrificially give, will there be enough left for my family and me?” “Does my giving actually accomplish anything?” “God, do You even really care about giving?” “How can I ever get to the point where I am excited to give?” You might even dare to ask, “Lord, what's in it for me?”

These are all legitimate questions that may never be said out loud, but many of us may carry in our hearts. In fact, I am sure that there may be some in this room who feel a very real and honest fear and uneasiness when we approach this topic of finances and giving.

But I want you all to know that God knows our hearts, fears, questions, and hesitations. And I want you to know that you don't need a 1-on-1 consultation with God. That is because God has given us His word, and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, God, through the pen of Paul, provides the biblical rationale and biblical motivations for why we should be cheerful givers.

The main point of this passage is that 2 Corinthians 9:6–15 provides five encouragements to give generously from a joyful heart.

See, on this topic of giving, God and the Apostle Paul could have said: “Just do it. Just give. Do it because I said so.” However, that is not what God and the Apostle Paul do here. Instead, we find here in this passage numerous encouragements for why we should want to give. God, through the pen of Paul, is trying to win our hearts with reasons for us to be compelled to be cheerful givers. And those encouragements are as follows...

**Outline:**

I. Joyfully Give Because God Blesses It (9:6)

II. Joyfully Give Because God Loves It (9:7)

III. Joyfully Give Because God Supplies It (9:8-11)

IV. Joyfully Give Because God Provides Through It (9:12a)

V. Joyfully Give Because God Receives Thanks & Glory By It (9:12b-15)

It is my prayer that God would use this passage to fashion us into cheerful givers that meet needs within the body and bring glory to God.

Look at 9:6 with me, and we find here that the first encouragement Paul gives for us to Joyfully Give is Because God Blesses It. He writes, “9:6.”

**I. Joyfully Give Because God Blesses It (9:6)**

Paul begins here in his closing exhortations to give in this section with an agricultural analogy that is rooted in the OT Scriptures. While not quoting directly from a particular OT verse here, Paul is picking up on the analogy of sowing and reaping in both material and spiritual matters that had been used in OT books such as Proverbs (11:24–26, 22:8–9), Hosea (10:12–13), and Job (4:8).

In agriculture, sowing refers to planting, and reaping refers to harvesting. In order to have a crop to reap/harvest, a farmer must take seed and sow/scatter/plant it into the ground. And there is a direct correspondence between sowing and reaping. Paul

highlights that there is direct correspondence between how you sow and how you reap.

Note the words that he uses. First, he says if you sow “sparingly,” you will reap “sparingly.” Sparingly means meagerly or limitedly. If you sow a little, you’ll reap a little. If you plant a meager amount of seed, don’t be surprised when you harvest a meager amount of crop. But the converse is also true. Paul goes on to write that on the flip side, if you sow “bountifully” then you will reap “bountifully.” If you sow a lot, you’ll reap a lot. This is the law of the harvest. This is how the world works.

And Paul points to this principle of farming to teach us theological truth. In the context of this passage, “sowing” represents giving. The call to “sow” is a call to give monetarily to meet ministry needs. “Reaping” represents the return one receives from that giving. So, this verse teaches us that if you give meagerly, then in return you will receive a meager return. Paul warns us that stingy sowing should not expect a bountiful harvest. But, on the other hand, He does promise to abundantly bless and return bountifully to those who give bountifully. In fact, this word “bountifully” in 9:6 most literally means “with blessing.” This is why the LSB translates this verse: “and he who sows *with blessing* will also reap *with blessing*.”

Now, you may be wondering, does this refer to reaping material or spiritual blessing? The answer is: both. God does give material blessing. Proverbs 11:25 teaches the general principle of truth that “The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered.” While the health/wealth/prosperity gospel teaching is unbiblical, 2 Corinthians 9:6 is in fact saying that when a Christian is a faithful and generous giver, then they will receive the material blessing from God that is necessary to keep being generous.

But I think the faithful sower will also reap spiritual blessing as well. Paul goes beyond the material emphasis of 9:6 and broadens the horizons of blessings to say in 9:8 that the generous giver will have “sufficiency *in everything*” and in 9:10 that they will be “enriched *in everything*.” God promises comprehensive blessing upon saints who sow seeds of support.

So, after examining this verse, my question to you is this: Do you want to be blessed by God? I don't know about you, but I want to be blessed by God! Sometimes we may feel like it's unspiritual to be motivated by such things. But the text is clear! God, through the pen of Paul, is encouraging us to give with the promise that He will bless us if we do! So let's not try to be more spiritual than God. If you want a blessing from the Lord, then give to the work of the Lord.

And let me just say so many of you here at Cornerstone have been so faithful in this regard. There are many generous givers here. And I trust that the generous givers in this room can all testify to how God has abundantly blessed you in it.

But there may be some here who are skeptical about giving. You may have doubts, fears, and questions regarding giving. And I can understand that. The reality is that giving is a step of faith. This type of farming takes faith. Sowing is a spiritual matter. I, too, understand what it's like to have fear over finances. I'm not above that. But God providentially included this verse in Scripture because He wants all of us to feel confident stepping out in faith and giving, since He promises to bless us if we do.

The Apostle Paul's first encouragement for us to Joyfully Give is Because God Blesses It. But in 9:7, Paul includes the second encouragement/reason to give, which is Because God Loves It. It says, "9:7."

## **II. Joyfully Give Because God Loves It (9:7)**

In this verse, Paul takes aim and targets the heart behind giving. He says that each one, meaning every one of us, should give. And everyone should give "just as he has purposed in his heart." This word "purposed" means to choose, resolve, or select. The idea is that everyone should thoughtfully decide how much to give. This reiterates Paul's point we saw last week that there is no formula for giving. There isn't a specific amount, percentage, or one-size-fits-all answer. The biblical instruction for the Corinthians, and us today, is to thoughtfully and prayerfully sit down and decide how much to give.

But as one decides on what that will be, they need to make sure that they take into consideration what Paul writes next. He says that the Corinthians and we are not to give “grudgingly or under compulsion.” “Grudgingly” literally means “from grief/sorrow/pain.” It speaks of reluctant giving. You give, but it's painful. You give, but when you do, you are filled with sadness. And God also doesn't want any giving that is “under compulsion,” meaning that it is forced, required, demanded, or coerced.

This isn't hard to understand. For example, imagine that it's Christmas and your spouse gives you a gift. And it's a good gift. But they include a card with the note, and it says, “I bought this gift for you because that is probably what I should do since everybody else buys gifts for their spouses. But—to be completely honest—it was really painful to buy it when I saw the price tag on it. In fact, cried the whole car ride home after buying it when I thought about how much money it cost me.” What would your response be to that (so-called) gift? You wouldn't want it! You don't want a gift from your spouse that they are sad and pained to give you.

Brothers and sisters, the Lord is the same way. God does not want gifts given in grief or from external pressure. God doesn't want grieved givers. God is not pleased with that sort of giving...

Rather, this verse says that “God loves a cheerful giver.” It is not the grieved giver that God loves, but the cheerful/happy/joyous/delighted/glad giver that God loves.

Again, this verse penetrates down to the heart behind giving. Specifically, it speaks to the emotions and attitudes of the heart behind giving.

Now, it is true that we aren't to be led by our emotions, but it is unbiblical to say that emotions don't matter to God. Comprehensive heart obedience doesn't just include having biblical thoughts and choices, but also biblical attitudes/desires. So, when it comes to giving, we must not merely intellectually assent to the biblical truth that Christians should give and then exercise our will and make the biblical choice to give. We are not robots that just take in information and mechanically take action in light of it. God is calling us not just to be givers, but to be *joyful* givers.

And at the end of 9:7, Paul includes an encouragement for *why* we should be inclined to be joyful givers. The reason to give is simple yet amazingly profound. We should be cheerful givers because God loves it. What a motivation! Don't just pass over this quickly! Think about what is being said here! The Bible is telling us that our Heavenly Father, the Almighty God of the universe, looks down upon us with love, favor, and affection when we give to meet the needs of the church. In Philippians 4:18, Paul describes the gifts that the Philippians gave as "a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, *well-pleasing to God.*" Our cheerful giving brings pleasure to the Lord of the universe. Talk about a motivation to give!

Now, of course, we are not talking about earning God's love in a salvific sense. God in His sovereignty alone and not due to any goodness within us, decided to set His eternal, electing love upon us. We are justified by grace through faith in Christ alone. However, God does take special delight in cheerful generosity. I'm sure all of the parents in this room can relate. You have an unchanging and constant love for your children. However, at the same time, you have a special love when your child obeys you with a happy heart! That is God's heart toward us. We are God's "beloved" since we are in Christ, and at the same time, we have a special opportunity to experience the love and pleasure of God in a unique way when we support the saints with a happy heart.

So, brothers and sisters, let us take this verse to heart. To be honest, as I have reflected on my own heart in relation to giving this week, I have seen how I have been somewhat obligatory in my giving. I just kind of do it. I just write a check each month and tithe because I know its importance, I want to honor the Lord, and provide for the church (and Dave Ramsey told me to do it). But to be honest, I am not always writing that check with a cheerful heart. Sometimes it's just another thing to do. But a check written to support the work of the ministry should not be just like paying a bill. God doesn't want that.

Now, I'm not saying that if our hearts are not rightfully joyous when we give, we should just stop giving. Rather, we should keep giving, but also ask God to help us to have happy hearts in it. Personally, this week I've been asking the Lord to grow me in my cheerfulness in giving. And one of the main things that has warmed my

affections in relation to giving is the profound promise found in this verse. Brothers and sisters, “God loves a cheerful giver.” May you be encouraged today to grow as a generous giver in light of the truth that God loves it...

But it doesn't end there. In 9:8–11, we find the next reason Paul gives to motivate us to be generous. We are to Joyfully Give Because God Supplies It. The Apostle Paul writes, “9:8–11.”

### **III. Joyfully Give Because God Supplies It (9:8–11)**

The truth is that many may feel hesitations and fear to give because they wonder if they are supplied well enough to do it. People may think, “Do I really have the means to give? What if I give this money away and I end up needing it?” However, the verses bring a balm to those fears. We can feel safe in our giving because God says he will powerfully provide what we need to do it.

Look at 9:8. Note those first four words: “And God is able.” This term “able” refers to “power” and “capability.” And what do these verses say that He is able/powerful enough to do?

In 9:8, Paul says, “9:8.” Did you notice the expansiveness of the language in this verse? Paul is saying that God will powerfully and abundantly supply us with “all grace.” And that abundant grace will be available “always,” meaning at any and all times. And that constant supply of abundant grace will ensure that we “have all sufficiency,” meaning that we will have everything that we need. And that constant, sufficient, abundant grace will be available to us “in everything,” meaning that no matter the circumstance, we will be supplied by the Lord. This verse is proclaiming that in all things, at all times, and in all circumstances, the Lord will generously provide what we need, so that “you may have an abundance for every good deed.” God will use His sovereign power to generously supply us with what we need *and more*, so that we may do good works of charity and piety.

But if you still have doubts about this truth, in 9:9 Paul quotes from the OT to further prove the point that God does bless His people generously so that they may, in turn, bless others. He says, “9:9.” Here, Paul quotes from Psalm 112:9.

And you may be wondering, who is the “he” that is spoken of here? Personally, whenever I have read through this passage, I have always assumed that this was talking about God. However, that is actually not the case. In the context of Psalm 112, it is clearly speaking of the righteous and godly man. In the earlier section of Psalm 112, it said, “Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments... Wealth and riches will be in his house.” And in response to the blessings of the Lord, it is said that “it is well with the man who is gracious and lends,” and the godly man is generous, shown by how he “has dispersed abroad” and “given to the poor.”

So, Paul’s point in bringing up this psalm is to further confirm his teaching with OT support: if we are a people who fear and obey God, God will bless and prosper us so that we will have what we need to give. Psalm 112 says that God generously gave to the godly, and they in turn generously gave to others. That was true in the OT, and it is true in the NT as well...

Continuing on in 9:10, the OT is still clearly on his mind because, while this verse isn’t a direct quotation from the OT, it is a clear allusion to both Isaiah 55:10 and Hosea 10:12. Again, he returns to the concept of sowing and reaping from 9:6. Paul says that it is God “who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food.” And just as God supplies seed to the farmer, so too for the Corinthians will He “supply and multiply [their] seed for sowing and increase the harvest of [their] righteousness!” In the same way that our Creator God provides each farmer with seed that they can then place into soil, and God sends rain on the ground and grows the crop until it is time for harvest, so too does God provide the Corinthians, and us, with the finances necessary to be able to give and also multiply our gifts, which results in a great harvest of righteousness!

But Paul’s emphasis upon God’s provision doesn’t end there! He keeps on adding more. He continues in 9:11 and says, “You will be enriched in everything.” This word “enrich” means what it looks like it means. It means to “make rich/wealthy.”

But before you call Paul a prosperity-gospel teacher, look at the end of v.11 with me. He says, “You will be enriched in everything *for all liberality.*” And this is the

major difference between the biblical truth being taught in these verses and the false message of the prosperity gospel. God will provide and bless His people so that they have what they need *and more*. But the purpose behind the saint's surplus is not that they may spend it on their fleshly desires, but so that they may give more. God will bless and abundantly supply His people who are generous, so that they can continue to be more generous!

So, brothers and sisters, let me ask you: Do you believe this? Do you believe that God is able to do this? Do you believe that God will sovereignly supply the seed that we need for sowing? Hear these verses this morning and believe them by faith. Be encouraged to step in faith and joyfully give to gospel ministry because God will supply what you need to do so. And when we do, God will use it to meet the needs of others. This brings us to the fourth point in this passage: we should Joyfully Give Because God Provides Through It. In the first half of 9:12, Paul says that “the ministry of this service is... fully supplying the needs of the saints.”

#### **IV. Joyfully Give Because God Provides Through It (9:12a)**

While this is only half a verse and Paul will continue to discuss other points, this is a very important point worth pausing on.

Paul is speaking here of the Corinthians pending gift of aid for the Jerusalem Church. And he refers to this generous gift as a “ministry of... service.” These words are used elsewhere to describe the work of priests and gospel ministers. See, we must understand that giving is a ministry. Giving is a way to worship God and serve His people. That is why we mention ways to give every Sunday because this is an element of worship and our ministry to the Lord and His people.

And Paul explains in this verse that this pending ministry/service of giving that the Corinthians are being called to would be used by the Lord to “fully supply the needs of the saints.” God would thoroughly provide for His people in Jerusalem through the giving of His people in Corinth and elsewhere. There was a ministry “need” among “the saints.” And while God is ultimately the one who provides for His people, God normatively provides through the generous gifts of His people.

Honestly, what a privilege this is. We should be amazed and honored that God would use us and our gifts as the means/instrument of providing for others.

So, let me encourage you all this morning that your giving (whatever it is) is meaningful. You may not think it is doing anything, but God is using your giving to provide for real ministry needs. Your giving is helping specific saints in our church body and abroad. Every dollar you give to our Deacon's Fund provides funds for those within our church who currently need help meeting the demands of life. Every dollar you give to the General Fund provides for all pastoral and office staff, so we can be freed up to spend our time fully devoted to meeting ministry needs here in our church body. Additionally, it covers all expenses related to our buildings and campus, so we can gather as a church family. Also, 11% of the General Fund budget goes to Missions, and every dollar you give towards that is used to provide for the needs of our missionaries. It is your giving that provides for the needs of the Cs, Rochas, Zellers, Zubarevs, Pruetts, Ellingsons, and Rogers. And our ministry to them enables ministry in places like the Middle East, Asia, South America, and around the globe. Every dollar you give that goes to our Missions budget,

So, let me just say thank you to all of you here today who so faithfully give to the ministry here at Cornerstone. And let me also encourage you all: the Lord is using you. He is using your generous giving to provide for real ministry needs within the body of Christ.

But with that said, in God's providence, today is the last Sunday of the fiscal year, and we are in a text on giving, so I am compelled to bring up another need that stands before us today as a congregation. As I'm sure you've seen on the back of the church bulletin, we are in our last Sunday of the fiscal year, and we are down 4% in the General Fund.

Now, I'm not going to pretend that this need is a 1-to-1 connection to our text. Giving to the General Fund is not exactly the same as giving to meet the needs of the Jerusalem Church. Our church staff and our missionaries are not on the brink of destitution like the Jerusalem Church was. I understand that. However, this verse teaches us the general principle that God provides for real ministry needs through

the generous giving of His people. And the truth is that there is a need before us today to meet the General Fund shortfall. So, out of a desire to stay on track financially and end the year in the black instead of the red, please prayerfully consider what you can give to help.

But only give if the Lord is stirring your heart through this passage, then follow this text by Joyfully Giving Because God Provides Through It...

But there is a fifth and final encouragement to give that is found in our passage this morning. Paul closes this section on giving by calling us to be generous givers Because God Receives Thanks & Glory by It. He writes, “9:12b-15.”

#### **V. Joyfully Give Because God Receives Thanks & Glory by It (9:12b-15)**

While the *horizontal* result of the Corinthians giving was the supplying of the Jerusalem Church materially, Paul hurries on to say that a *vertical* result of the Corinthians giving was that there would be an “overflowing” of “many thanksgivings [plural] to God.”

Paul is intentionally using vocabulary to emphasize the greatness of thanks that flows to God when His people are joyful givers. In the imagery of Revelation, when generous giving takes place, prayers of thanks and praise from both the giver and the recipient come together and are like incense being poured into golden bowls, and these bowls are literally overflowing with thanks as they are offered in the throne room of God in the heavenlies.

For example, imagine this. Imagine a family here in the church is helped through the Deacon’s Fund. The receiving family may never know who gave, but they know God provided. They sit at their table and say, “Lord, thank You. You saw us. You cared for us.” The giver may never receive public recognition, but God receives worship. That is exactly Paul’s point: generosity does not merely pay bills; it multiplies thanksgiving to God. Not only are physical needs met, but spiritual worship is offered unto God in response.

Furthermore, in these verses Paul not only says that God is thanked, but He is also glorified as well. Paul writes, “9:13–14.” This act of generosity by the Corinthians to the Jerusalem believers would be a proof/validation/evidence of their genuine faith. The reality is that God is the Giver; therefore, His people will also surely be givers. And when the Jerusalem saints saw the kindness of the Corinthians manifested, “they will glorify God.” Meaning that God will receive honor, praise, and recognition for His greatness.

We see here that the end result of giving ends with a Godward focus. It’s not about us being praised or thanked primarily. It ends with God be praised and thanked.

And with that, the cycle of generous giving is truly complete. It is about God from beginning to end. It is God who generously gives to us and supplies us with our needs. It is God who supplies us with the abundant grace and means necessary to be able to give to others. It is God who provides for others through giving. And then when that gift is received, it then returns back up to God in thanks and praise. In the end, the most important thing in the world is accomplished through giving—the glory of God...

But I want us to note the reasons why God is glorified through the gift. Yes, it says at the end of 9:13 that the recipients of the gift glorify God “for the liberality of [the givers’] contribution.” But make sure we don’t gloss over the first half of 9:13 where it says that God will be glorified “for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ.” What is being said here is that sowing seeds is an act of gospel obedience. In other words, genuine Christians are generous Christians.

And this is because the gospel itself is a message about generous giving. That is why Paul ends this chapter on the note that he does. Look at 9:15, it says, “9:15.”

What is the gift that is beyond words and infinite in value? It is what he says at the end of 9:14. It is “the exceeding grace of God in you.” It is a Triune gift of grace.

The gospel is the indescribable gift that God the Father, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, “gave His only begotten Son so that who believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). The Father gave His most precious

gift—His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. And Jesus, being the exact representation of the Father, is also a Joyful Giver, and in the words of Hebrews 12:2, He “for the *joy* set before Him endured the cross” and sacrificially *gave* Himself for you. All of us are sinners, and in order to offer reconciliation to the Father, Jesus died for the sins of the world and then was buried. And Jesus did so knowing that, “unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces [much fruit]” (John 12:24, NIV). Jesus is the seed of the Father that was sown into the ground. And three days later, through divine power, Jesus Christ resurrected from the ground and ascended into heaven. And the offer of the infinite riches of grace and forgiveness that are found through the harvest of Jesus Christ’s work is offered to all today. If you will but repent of your sins and believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ, you will be saved. And the ascended Christ and His Father will send down the Holy Spirit to live inside of you.

This is the indescribable gift of the gospel. God joyfully gave the ultimate gift in order that we might receive the immeasurable riches of His grace. So, to all here today, before you give a cent to God, you need to give yourself to God. And that’s because the offer of the gospel is free. You can’t pay or give your way to heaven. But rather God says to you, “Come, poor sinner, and come empty-handed. I have eternal riches to give to you, if you will but receive it.” So come, come to the Lord here this morning. Receive His abundant and lavish grace.

### **Conclusion**

And for those of us who have received it, may God give us ears to hear from this passage this morning. What amazing encouragements we have seen here that should move us to grow in generosity. We should Joyfully Give Because God Blesses It, Loves It, Supplies It, Provides Through It, and Receives Thanks & Glory by It.

It is God who stands as the premier example of Joyful Giving, so may we follow in His footsteps and grow to generous givers, for the good of others and for the glory of God. Amen.