Chris Miller

SESSION 2 | PRINCIPLES 6-10 OF GENEROUS GIVING

I. INTRODUCTION

The Corinthians:

- Their Commitment (9:5)
- Began one year ago (8:10-11)
- Completion (9:5)
- Humiliation (9:4)

How to Motivate and Inspire them?

1. Manipulate: They have not kept their promise.
2. Guilt: the poor Macedonians' example
3. Shame

II. PRINCIPLE 6: The Motivation for Generosity: Reality of Gospel-Generosity GOSPEL-GENEROSITY(8:7-9)

- A display of their affections for their brothers in Christ in their generosity---he doesn't lean into duty, but delight! Not "have to" but "want to."

- 8:9–For Christians, generosity flows out of an experience with God's generosity:

  "FOR YOU KNOW the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (v.9).

- **God's Generosity?**

- **Gospel Principle of Sacrificial-Generosity: "MY LIFE FOR YOURS"**

III. PRINCIPLE 7: Generous People Minister in Mutuality (8:13-15)

"I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness, your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness" (13-14).

IV. PRINCIPLE 8: A Generous Heart Overflows With Gospel-Affected Freedom (2 Cor 9:7-10)

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.…God loves a cheerful giver"

The question for the Corinthians is not **IF** they will give or not give. Neither it a question of **HOW MUCH** they will give. For Paul, the chief concern is **HOW** they will give.

—"Sparing sowing"

- Calculating: reflects duty or under compulsion.
- You could say, "it gives less than or according to expectations"
- It is calculating (it is fully aware of "how much money this is!" and how long it took them to earn it.

—Bountiful sowing:

- Is free to give and not to give.
- From an impulse to bless others.
- Gives out of the overflow of God's generosity,
- It releases grace out of the overflow of grace in their own lives.
- IT is NOT calculating—it casts many seeds!

	Source	Motivation	Result:
Bountifully: Gospel-generosity	From their love for Christ and His people	Motivated by love	Generously and freely they give themselves as a gift of grace.
Sparingly: An Exaction	From internal or external pressure	Motivated by greed	Reluctantly give only money.

C.S. Lewis, "Three Kinds of Men"

1. The Pure Egotist (Self-Centering life)
2. The Duty Bound Moralist (The "Taxpayer")
3. The Transformed Will (Christ-Centering)

Dane Ortland: *"Giving is something one does delightedly. That is, giving is simply what a gospel-formed life looks like. Even more deeply, it is what a Christian does because it reflects who we now are. 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."*

V. PRINCIPLE 9: Generous Sowing Produces Fruitful Reaping (8-9)

- *"God is able to make ALL grace abound to you, so that having ALL sufficiency in ALL things at ALL times, you may abound in every good work" (9:8).*

- Verse 9–a quotation from Psalm 112:9: "He" is not God, but the "man who fears God" (Psalm 112:1)

- **Seed = Wiling, Joyful, Generosity**

VI. PRINCIPLE 10: There is a Ripple Effect to Gospel-Affected Generosity (11-14):

- **The Need (v.11)**
- **Thanksgiving to God (12)**
- **Glory to God for you (13)**

Principles of Generosity from 2 Corinthians 8-9

Principle 1: Goal is Generosity, not Mere Participation (1 Cor 16:1-4)

Principle 2: We Give Grace, Received, not Money Earned (2 Cor 8:1)

Principle 3: Generosity, an Act of Faith: Grace Works Exponentially (8:2-3)
(abundant joy + Extreme Poverty = Wealth of generosity)

Principle 4: Unconstrained Eagerness is the Measure of Generosity (8:4)
Generous giving is **neither constrained** ("they gave on their own accord", 8:3), nor **irresponsible.** *"For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what they do not have"* (8:12).

Principle 5: Giving fuels the Lord's Priorities, not Individual Aspirations (5)

Principle 6: The Motivation for Generosity: Reality of Gospel-Generosity (8:7-9)

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