

A close-up photograph of two vibrant green leaves. The leaf in the foreground is slightly out of focus, while the one behind it is sharper. A single, clear water droplet is perched on the surface of the front leaf, reflecting light. The background is a soft, dark brown, creating a high-contrast, naturalistic setting.

First
Corinthians

growing pains

“Whatever It Takes” | Pastor Joe Yoshihara | August 10, 2025

1 Corinthians 9:13-27

¹³ Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? ¹⁴ In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the



1 Corinthians 9:13-27

gospel should get their living by the gospel.

¹⁵ But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. ¹⁶ For if I preach the



1 Corinthians 9:13-27

gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me.

Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship.



1 Corinthians 9:13-27

¹⁸ What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win



1 Corinthians 9:13-27

more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as



1 Corinthians 9:13-27

one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save



1 Corinthians 9:13-27

some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.



1 Corinthians 9:13-27

²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after



1 Corinthians 9:13-27

preaching to others I myself should
be disqualified.



Leader: The Word of the Lord

Congregation: Amen! Praise be to
God!

1 Corinthians 9:15-18

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1 Corinthians 9:15-18

boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸ What then is my reward?



1 Corinthians 9:15-18

That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.



1 Thessalonians 2:9

⁹ For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.



2 Corinthians 11:7-9

⁷ Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of

charge? **⁸ I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. ⁹ And when I was with you and**



2 Corinthians 11:7-9

was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way.



1 Corinthians 9:22-23

**...I have become all things to all people,
that by all means I might save some. ²³ |**

do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may
share with them in its blessings.



**Q: Are you willing to do whatever it takes
to reach people for Christ?**



1 Corinthians 9:24-27

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do



1 Corinthians 9:24-27

not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.



1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

¹⁹ For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.



Application

1. Ask the Lord if there is anything you can do to be more effective in reaching people for Christ.

