

**The Grace of Giving**  
**“Motivated”**  
Growth Group Discussion  
2 Corinthians 9:6-15

**Opening Questions** (choose one or two, and get everyone involved in discussion):

- Think about a time when you gave to a need, or a pattern of generosity in your life. What was the biggest motivator that moved you to give?
- What is one thing that would have to happen for you to give away more of your resources than you currently are?

**1. Read 2 Cor. 9:6-15, then discuss the following.**

- *Context review: The context for this conversation is a collection that Paul is taking up to meet the financial needs of impoverished Christians in Jerusalem. The Corinthians have expressed a desire to give, but they haven't come through with an actual gift.*
- The end goal of Paul's writing in these chapters is this: **for us to give in a way that mirrors the way God has given to us.**
  - Based on your reading in 2 Cor. 8-9, would you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
  - Paul give four final motivators to persuade his readers to give generously. Spend some time with each one, below, giving more time to those that feel more pertinent to your group.
- ❖ In v. 6, Paul gives an agricultural analogy. Unpack what he means here. To what practice does sowing refer? Reaping?
  - Pastor Josh summarized this point as follows: **your impact will correspond to your generosity.** Do you think that this sentence captures Paul's argument? Why or why not?
  - As you think about the ways you give, do you think you sow sparingly or sow generously? Is there room for growth?
- ❖ In v. 7, Paul gives us this motivator: **God delights in people who give cheerfully.**
  - To what degree does this fact motivate you?
  - Based on this fact, Paul says, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion." What practical step is implied here?
  - Pastor Josh suggested, based on this principle, that for each need with which you are presented, you should "give the amount that you can cheerfully give." What do you think of this suggestion? How could it apply to your situation?

- ❖ In vv. 8-11, we see another motivator: **God gives us what we need to be able to give.**
  - Paul is anticipating some resistance: *If I give generously, how will I have enough to meet my own needs?* Do you ever wrestle with this question? Why or why not?
  - What do you make of the “superlative” language in vv. 8 and 10? (E.g., all, abundantly, every, abound, etc.)
  - If God told you, “I have given you \$1000 of my money to give away, and when you give it away, I will replace it with more money for you to give away,” to what cause would you give it?
  - How does this principle differ from what has been called, “The Prosperity Gospel?”
  - What do you think is the point of Paul’s allusion to Psalm 112, in v. 9? If you have time, you may want to read the Psalm, and see how it informs your understanding.
- ❖ In vv. 11-14, we see a final motivator: **generous giving results in more praise to God!**
  - Have you seen this principle play out in your experience, either when you were moved to praise God as a result of someone’s giving, or your giving (or our church’s giving) prompted people to praise God, directly or indirectly? Please share.
  - To what degree does this observation move your heart? Why?

## 2. Series wrap-up.

- What principles have touched you most during this “Grace of Giving” series?
- Have you gained any new insights, or started new practices, during these four weeks?
- How do you think God is prompting you to act as a result of these studies?
- Is there a need to which our group can collectively give, for greater impact?
- How can we best encourage one another in this group to put these things into action?

### PRAYER:

- Take time to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.
- Praise God for the way that his generosity and the generosity of others has touched you. Pray for the ability to follow-through on what he has shown you in this series.