

GOD & MONEY

A THEOLOGY OF GENEROSITY

2 Corinthians 9:6–12

RELATED SCRIPTURES

Acts 2:42–47 | Proverbs 3:9–10 | Galatians 6:6–10

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 5.3.26

SUMMARY

The underlying principle of Christian generosity stems from the truth that God’s grace toward us reproduces his graciousness within us. Since God’s grace toward us is infinite and not measured out, we who receive it are to show generosity without measurement or calculation. We should not give under compulsion. Paul reminds the church that God loves a cheerful giver (v. 7) because the Lord is a cheerful giver. Further, Paul doesn’t teach the church that their giving should be reckless or impulsive; instead, “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart” (v. 7). But what is the right amount according to the heart? Paul uses a farming metaphor to explain to the church that the heart *should* respond according to the faithful supply of the Father. Paul teaches that “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” (v. 8). Just as the God of harvest gives the sower enough harvest to supply seed for next season, his daily bread, and even surplus beyond that, so God will provide the generous giver with enough for his needs and even “multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness” (v. 10), or multiply your “harvest” for good works and sharing with others. This is a cycle of generosity that will continue as the Lord will bless the giver with both the means and the opportunity for graciousness; they will be “enriched in every way to be generous in every way” (v. 11). However, it’s important to note that Paul is not promising *wealth* to the giver; instead, the giver will receive “all sufficiency,” or all that you need to “abound in every good work” (v. 8). Paul also reiterates that this kind of generosity will bring out a heart of thanksgiving in the giver (v. 11) and glory to God through the praises of the recipient of the generous gifts (v. 13). Lastly, Paul reminds the church that practical kindness through generosity will establish a bond of affection and prayer in the church (v. 14). May we all reflect the generosity the Lord has given to us!

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of 2 Corinthians 9:6–12.

Do you struggle with giving out of compulsion and giving out of gratitude? According to this passage, how does your heart move from compulsion to gratitude?

We often like to quantify our giving with precise percentages. Why do you suppose Paul didn’t spell out a specific percentage the church should give? How much does a cheerful and generous giver actually give?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.