

## Last Week: 8:16-9:5 Paul Gave Two Encouragements

1. You Can Trust That Your Gifts Will Be Used for Their Intended Purpose
2. Continue with Their Original Promise to Help the Saints in Jerusalem

## 9:6-9:16 Paul Highlights Giving As It Relates To God

- I. “The What” Vs. 6-7
- II. “The How” Vs. 8-10
- III. “The Why” Vs. 11-15

### Read 9:6-15

## I. 6-7 “The What” Paul Reveals An Expectation To Give Bountifully

Vs. 6 *“Whoever sows sparingly shall reap sparingly, whoever sows bountifully shall reap bountifully.”*

- **1 Cor. 15:25-28** Agrarian Example
  - Notice the constant elements in his grammar:
    - We have the sower
    - We have a process of reaping
    - We have a description of the reaping which is bountiful in both scenarios
  - The only variable is the volume of the sowing.
  - Everyone is a sower. The question is whether we sow sparingly or generously.

Bountiful sowing = Bountiful reaping    Sparing sowing = Sparing reaping    Absent sowing = Reaping zero

## How Do We Know How Much To Sow? What Is the Criteria for Bountiful Vs. Sparing?

Vs. 7 *“Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

- We are being reminded that we are to give in accordance with what God has laid on our hearts.
- Expectation is that we prayerfully identify God’s will in all matters including our gifts.

## Vs. 7 Paul gives two behavioral warnings:

1. Do not give grudgingly
  2. Do not give out of compulsion
    - Rather, give from your heart as you discern God leading you to give.
    - **I Corinthians 16:1-2** *“.....each person is to put aside as he/she has prospered.”*
    - Vs. 5 Paul sent brothers ahead so Corinthians would not be forced to give irrationally.
- Had he not warned them, they *would have given hastily out of compulsion or guilt*
  - Had he not warned them, they *might not have given at all – missed out on blessings & embarrassed Paul*
  - Had he not warned them, they *might have given out of obligation and been resentful.*

## Vs. 7 “God Loves A Cheerful Giver”

- The other truth we are given here is: “..... that God loves a cheerful giver.”
- Therefore, we can assume that to give grudgingly or out of compulsion IS NOT a cheerful attitude.

When We Give As We Have Purposed In Our Hearts, We Will NOT Be Surprised, Regretful, Or At a Loss

## **II. 8-10 “The How” Paul Reveals **How** It Is Possible To Give Bountifully**

**Vs. 8** *“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.”*

**NET** *“God is able to make all grace overflow to you so that because you have enough of everything in every way at all times, you will overflow in every good work.”*

- **Sufficiency** = *Autarkeia* 1 Tim. 6:6 . Paul is borrowing a term from the secular culture that implied a self-sufficiency. This term traditionally referred to individual independence & accomplishment.
- Paul twists its meaning to reveal that our sufficiency in everything comes from God.

### **Sufficiency or “Having Enough In Everything” Is Intended to Overflow Toward Others.**

- Paul is addressing financial gifts for the saints in this passage
- God’s grace SHOULD overflow toward others in many ways
- Kindness, sharing of the Gospel, sharing each other’s burdens, hospitality
- When God abundantly meets our needs, we are motivated and equipped to bless others.

**Illustration:** Mykel’s knowledge of scripture & ability to teach. It is beyond sufficient. It is overflowing. He loves sharing with others. He loves blessing others. Watching him reveals the joy.

### **Paul Quotes Psalm 112:9 As Example of The Person Who Lives A Life Abundantly Blessing Others**

**Vs. 9** *“He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, His righteousness abides forever.”*

- Some say this refers to God.
  - A proper perspective is probably that of someone God has blessed who then blesses others.
1. Vs. 8 is about God blessing YOU (Corinthians) so YOU are equipped for every good deed.
  2. Psalm is all about the prosperity of the man who fears the Lord and how he lives & behaves toward others.
    - I believe Paul is quoting this as an example of his point about God’s sufficiency.
    - Yes, these are descriptions of God, but they are also descriptions of a believer.
    - Our righteousness abides forever in Jesus.....our salvation is eternal.

### **Paul Reiterates The Metaphor of the Sower From Vs 6. He Reveals That God Gives the Seed**

**Vs. 10** *“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.”*

- Paul reveals that since God provides the seed for you to sow, He will also multiply it.
- The result of increased sowing is an increase in harvest.

### **“Increase the Harvest of Your Righteousness”**

- Probably not a statement about sower’s personal righteousness
  - This is a statement about the sower’s sowing.
  - As a result of righteous activities, the righteous harvest will be increased.

If We Believe that Our “Sufficiency” Is the Result of Our Own Great Accomplishments We Will Struggle To Give Bountifully

If We Understand Our Sufficiency Is the Result of God’s Grace, We Know That He Will Multiply

YET.....This is never intended to be a recipe for financial wealth. This Is About Operating As God Is Leads.

### **III. 11-15 “The Why” Paul Reveals Why It Is Important to Give Bountifully**

The “Why” Will Essentially Boil Down to Two Main Reasons

1. Thanksgiving & Glory to God
2. Meeting the literal needs of believers.

#### **1. Thanksgiving & Glory to God**

- Vs. 11 *“As you sow you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.”*
  - As the Corinthians give, they would be enriched in every way so that they can be generous on every occasion... The enrichment will provide greater opportunities for sowing.
  - The result of this will be thanksgiving to God by those who receive the gifts.
- Vs. 12b *“.....this ministry is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.”*
- Vs. 13 *“Because of the proof given by this ministry they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ.....”*

#### **2. Meeting the Needs of The Saints**

- Vs. 12a *“This ministry of this service fully supplies the needs of the saints.....”*
- Vs. 14 *“.....the saints who receive your gifts will also be lifting up prayers for you on your behalf because of the extraordinary grace God has shown to you.”*

#### **Summary:**

Paul was specifically reminding the Corinthians to make good on their previous promises to give.

1. He reminded that there is an expectation placed upon the believer to sow into others lives
2. He reminded that giving was to be a response to God’s leading, not out of compulsion or grudgingly.
3. He reminded that God is more than capable of supplying all our needs. He provides for us in the first place and He will continue to meet our needs.
4. He reminded that the result of giving to others is that their very real needs will be met, and ultimately that God will be glorified and praised as a result.