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## OPENING COMMENT

Feel like participating in an awkward conversation? Just ask someone about their giving? What to take it to the next level? Tell them how they should approach their giving. Even though these are areas we typically do not tread into, Paul has no difficulty outlining to the Corinthian church how they ought to think about their money and how they should be giving it away. Although it is uncomfortable for us to talk about, we can learn some valuable lessons on how to approach the topic of giving by what Paul teaches.

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## READ THE TEXT: 2 Corinthians 9:5-15

<sup>6</sup>The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And 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. <sup>9</sup>As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever.”

<sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup>For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in



many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup>By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, <sup>14</sup>while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1. Paul makes it very clear that the amount you sow is the amount you reap. What, based on the rest of the passage, is sown and what is reaped? (vs. 10)
2. Paul uses the phrase “all grace about” in verse 8, which echoes what he says to the church in Chapter 8. How does chapter 8 help us understand this phrase our passage?
3. Why does God “increase the seed”? (vs. 10)
4. What are the results of the faithful giving of the Corinthian church? (vs. 11,12)
5. What might we assume of the quantity of the gift Paul is anticipating from verse 13?
6. Why is submission an important part of Paul’s argument in verse 13?

## APPLYING THE TEXT

1. What are the dangers inherent in understanding Paul’s principle in verse 6? How do we use those dangers as excuses for not being generous? How might we adhere to the principle of generosity without falling into those traps?
2. How might we proactively practice “deciding in our heart” what we should give? How might that change our obligation to a joy?
3. How does Paul’s understanding of God providing so that we can be generous (vs. 10 and 11) differ from our understanding of God’s provision? How do we begin to exercise our minds to understand God and his provision rightly?
4. How are you being purposeful in ensuring your generosity is turned to thanksgiving toward God? If this is a new concept, how might you begin to retrain your thinking?
5. How should a Christians generosity look different than an unbelievers generosity? How might that act as a witness in the world?

## BIBLICAL THREAD

1. Exodus 25:1-2 – heart motivated giving is what God is after
2. Deuteronomy 15:10-11 – motivated by the heart to meet the needs of the poor.



3. Psalm 112 – A Psalm that Paul builds his argument from.
4. Isaiah 55:10 – Paul eludes to the verse in 2 Corinthians 9:10
5. Matthew 7:7-11 – God giving better gifts than we could even give.
6. Romans 15:26-27 – Paul mentions this collection to the Roman church.
7. 1 John 3:17 – We know we have the love of God in us when we have a certain disposition towards our brothers and sisters in need.

## CONCLUSION

Paul understands that our giving should be defined by generosity, cheerfulness, and trust in God as provider. When we have this disposition, we bring glory to Him for the radical attitude we have towards money and possessions. The danger lies in thinking that we can accomplish this without understanding the extravagant generosity we have received in Christ. When we simply try to accomplish generosity, cheerfulness, and trust by yanking on our own boots straps we will find ourselves failing miserably. Our only hope is to clearly and persistently understand the great gift we have in Christ, which will turn our affections to seeing him praised and change our hearts to desiring to participate with everything he has given us.

## SHARE & PRAY

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### LIFE GROUP VISION:

The goal to meeting together around the word of God is three fold. First, we want to more clearly understand what God is saying to us through his Word and apply it to our own hearts and minds. Secondly, we want to build a loving community with each other to disciple one another toward maturity in Christ. Thirdly, we desire each of us, as ambassadors of Christ, to look outwards to our community and ask how we can bring the truth of the gospel to bear on those whom God has placed in our lives.

