

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (ESV)

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ 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. ⁹ As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹² For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

** God does not NEED our money! But He WANTS us to share generously because there is great blessing when we do.*

TWO MAIN BLESSINGS FROM SHARING GENEROUSLY:

- 1) We are enriched in every way (v11a)
- 2) God is praised (v11b-12b)

* It is the cheerful giver that receives these blessings (v7)
- Cheerful giving shows that we understand the grace of God while reluctant / giving under compulsion shows that we don't.

1. WE ARE ENRICHED IN EVERYWAY

- The more generous you share with others, the more God will enrich you (v6)

“What if sharing generously leaves me with nothing?”

- God is ABLE to provide ALL that you need (v8)
- God is FAITHFUL forever (v9-10)

Prosperity gospel? (v8)

- “sufficiency”= contentment, having everything we need
- “so that... you may abound in every good work” (v8)
- * The purpose of God's blessing of enriching is so that we can continue to share generously with others.

How is this a blessing for me?

- “YOU will be ENRICHED in EVERY WAY...” (v11)
- * Freedom from worry, anxiety, materialism
- * Greater joy in giving (“it is more blessed to give, than receive”)

Malachi 3:10 (ESV)- ¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

2. GOD IS PRAISED

- God is praised through the cheerful and generous sharing of His people (**vv12-15**)

How is this a blessing for me?

- “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him” (John Piper)

- When God gets the glory, we get the joy.

James 4:10 (ESV)- ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Christ is the greatest evidence

2 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV)- ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Would you describe yourself as a reluctant or cheerful giver? Why do you think that is? What would help you to become a cheerful giver? Are there any practical steps you can take?
2. Have you seen or experienced the blessing of being enriched in every way by sharing generously with joy? If so, share about that experience. If not, do you believe that this blessing is true? Why or why not?
3. Are there any ways that we as a community group can share generously with one another or others? Do you know of anyone that is in need that you can share generously with?