

A Heart of Generosity

Part 3 - Seven Principles that change lives
A Study on 2 Corinthians 8 & 9

P7: Generosity is **INTENTIONAL**, with specific **RESULTS**

9:6-15

Givers **GET**, when they don't **GIVE** to get vs. 6-7; Luke 6:38
*'sow sparingly... reap sparingly... sow bountifully...
reap bountifully' 'purposed in his heart... not grudgingly or under
compulsion... cheerful giver'*

God wants to **HELP YOU** be a generous person vs. 8-9
*'God is able... all grace... all sufficiency...
abundance for every good deed'*

God provides **MONEY** for two reasons: **SEED** sowing
and **BREAD** eating vs. 10
*'seed to the sower' = generosity toward God's work, God's people
'Bread for food' = Family budget, enjoying the fruit of your labor*

God's **REWARD** for generosity is more **GENEROSITY** vs. 10-11
*'Will supply and **MULTIPLY** your seed for sowing'
'**INCREASE** the harvest of your righteousness'
'you will be enriched in everything for **ALL LIBERALITY**'*

Generosity's primary outcome is **VERTICAL**, not **HORIZONTAL** vs. 11-15
*'Thanksgiving to God'
'Overflowing through many thanksgivings to God'
'They will **glorify God**... your confession to the gospel'
'They also, by prayers on your behalf'
'thanks be to **God** for His indescribable gift'*

Reminder: God has a special **AFFECTION** for Generous people

Proverbs 19:17 'One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed.'

Proverbs 11:24-25 'There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, And there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, And he who waters will himself be watered.'

Auburn Grace Community Church – April 21st, 2024

Life Group Discussion Questions – April 21, 2024

2 Corinthians 9:10-12 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; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

DISCOVER

1. How do you balance impulsive generosity with intentional giving? Explain how impulsive giving can sometimes be consistent with planned generosity. Have you ever been inspired to give but resisted the opportunity? What held you back?
2. How has God blessed you when you have contributed to the needs of others? Why does God want us to be generous? If an expected blessing is not our motivation, then what should be our motivation?
3. From the days of the early church until today, Christians are known for their great generosity. Why do you think that is? How do we glorify God through giving? When has giving provided an opportunity for you to share the Gospel?
4. For what purpose does God provide money? In what areas do you or AGCC practice seed sowing through generosity? Share with each other some of the ministries at AGCC which are a part of seed sowing.

EXPLORE

1. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. Verse 7 is a great summary of the heart of a generous person. In what areas have you been called to be purposeful in giving? Is it possible to have a God-given purpose in your heart for giving while holding a grudge against sharing your resources? Explain. Since God loves a cheerful giver, how do we become cheerful givers and remain in that state of mind? What do we reap when we give bountifully? Remember that givers get when they don't give to get.
2. Read Proverbs 19:17 and 11:24-25. Who repays us when we are gracious to the poor? Giving to the poor can be contentious for some. Under what circumstances is it a worthy deed? If we are not generous then why is it likely that we will not prosper?
3. Read Matthew 6:25-34. Have you ever wondered where your next meal would come from? If yes, then share how your need was met. How can worry hold us back from being generous?

EXPERIENCE

1. Some rich people give to ungodly causes. If we can't change such behavior, then what should generous believers do? How should we check our emotions before committing ourselves to give? What are the intended results of Christian generosity?
2. List all of the ways, that you can think of, to explain how God out-gives you. Share with the group specific examples where you feel moved to be more generous, whether with time, talent, or money.

PRAY

Pray... Thank you God for the special affection that You have for generous people. You call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Hold us accountable for giving back with the resources that You have graciously bestowed upon us. We marvel at Your grace and the abundance of Your blessing whether in material things or spiritual favor. When we come face-to-face, we want to be found as having been good stewards of all You have shared with us. In Jesus Name, amen.