



Week 5: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

HIS MONEY

In his lengthy letter to the Corinthians, a church grappling with numerous concerns, the apostle Paul nears its conclusion by reminding them of a collection he plans to gather in aid of believers in Jerusalem, a city located over 1000 miles away. He reminds the Corinthians of their pledge to support believers abroad, but without imposing any demands. Instead, he emphasizes that they belong to a generous God who freely gives, and that to belong to this God is to be slowly transformed into his likeness.

THE SCRIPTURE: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

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!

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² Here, as elsewhere in the same verse, the Greek word is *panta*, meaning "all."

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 5

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. As you consider your early years, how would you describe your parent's attitudes and behaviors towards finance? Do you think that has affected you in the way that you consider money?
2. Why do you think it's so difficult to talk about money, giving, and finances within the church?

DIVING DEEPER

3. Read Matthew 6:24, and Jesus' strong warning against the love of money. How are we sometimes guilty of compartmentalizing our lives when it comes to money?
4. According to 2 Corinthians 9:6, Paul cites the Old Testament principle that the more we give, the more we receive in return. Can you think of examples in your own life where this has proven to be true?
5. Examine closely 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. For each verse, determine the simple principle(s) of financial giving that Paul outlines and summarize them in the following chart:

VERSE	WHAT PRINCIPLE(S) OF GIVING IS(ARE) DESCRIBED?
6	
7	

Using those summaries, provide a single word for each and complete the following sentence:

"When it comes to giving financially, the Lord wants me to give _____
_____."

6. What might be some symptoms or signs in our lives of reluctant giving?
7. What amazing promises do you find in verse 8? Is this easy for you to believe? Is Paul promising riches and prosperity to the one who gives a lot?
8. 2 Corinthians 9:9 is a quotation from Psalm 112. How does this psalm help us better understand 2 Corinthians 9?
9. Re-read verses 10-12. What, according to verses 10-12 is God's purpose in providing the giver with everything he or she needs?
10. What, according to verses 12 and 13, are the benefits of the Corinthians' intentional generosity? Do you also see multiple benefits in your giving to your local church? In contrast, what are some incorrect reasons why people give money to churches?
11. What is the "inexpressible gift" Paul mentions in verse 15?
12. As this week closes, take a moment to intentionally seek the Lord in prayer. What is God saying to you through these verses?

¹See for instance Proverbs 11:24, 25; 22:9