

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Generosity Encouraged

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written:

*“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”*

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

“Why Should I Give to the Church?”**Discussion Questions**

1. What were your thoughts going into the sermon on the topic of giving? Did any questions arise for you because of the sermon? Did the sermon answer any questions you already had? What were your take-aways?
2. Why do you think some people are hesitant to give to churches?
3. What have been the factors that have most shaped your attitudes toward money & giving?
4. How would you define generosity?
5. What are some examples of generosity (expected or unexpected) that have blessed you?
6. Jim Shepherd, CEO of Generis, said that the pinnacle of discipleship regarding finances comes about when the question for giving is reframed from, “Out of all that God has given me, how much should I give?” to “Out of all that God has given me, how much should I keep?” Discuss this shift in thinking and how it helps reframe our views on giving?

If you would like to discuss the subject of giving with Pastor Jim, feel free to email him at jbirchfield@fpchouston.org.

**For further reading material from scripture during your study, please refer to the below scriptures:

Deuteronomy 8:17-18
Proverbs 3:9-10
Matthew 6:19-24

2 Corinthians 8:1-15
1 Timothy 6:17-19
James 2:14-17