

Sept 26, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
The Sacrifice: Ep. 3 Generosity Encouraged
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2 Corinthians 9:6-11

⁶ **Remember this:** Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And 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. ⁹ As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." ¹⁰ Now 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. ¹¹ You 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.

Key idea of the passage: Generosity manifests a harvest of God's blessings.

Out of the freedom from worry that God's generosity provides, comes an impulse of simplicity rather than accumulation. John Piper

Key Context: In this passage, Paul provides a systematic administration (**DIAKONIA**) of the nature of Godly **generosity** and the vow God commits himself to for those who chose to walk in the spirit of that generosity.

Key Words of Life and Blessing: **Generously—Reap—Cheerful—Abound—Freely—Enlarge—Thanksgiving—Supplies— Righteousness—Harvest—Gifts—Increase—All that you Need—Bless—Enriched—Good Work**

Vs. 6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

The old field of space, time, matter, and the senses is to be weeded, dug, and sown for a new crop. We may be tired of that old field: God is not. C.S. Lewis

Vs. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

- The NT is clear that we are no longer bound to the Old Testament mandate of compulsory giving, but that God continues to bind himself to the promise of provision for those who freely give.

Vs. 10 Now 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. ¹¹ You 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.

- Generosity allows you to become an agent of God's righteousness in the world.

Questions for small groups:

1. John Piper states that generosity draws us into freedom and simplicity. Can you explain how that works?
2. When God speaks about sowing generously, He is speaking about a holistic life of giving that goes beyond just finance. What are some other key areas where generosity can flourish?
3. This passage is full of words of life and blessing. Look at the list above. Can you articulate how those words are perhaps manifested in the real world of daily life?
4. Why would God remove the mandate of compulsory giving that existed before Jesus' sacrifice on the cross?
5. Vs. 10 says that your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. How would that happen?