

# “Giving With a Smile”

## 2 Corinthians Chapter 9

Proverbs 14:31

*“He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.”*

*“No man ought to live to himself; the two great ends of every Christian’s life ought to be, the glory of God, and the good of others, especially such as belong to the household of faith.” (Poole)*

Paul has purposed that part of the ministry to the Gentiles is to nurture GIVING to the poor, especially the poor in Jerusalem.

In chapter 8 Paul introduces the Grace of Giving.

- Two examples of Giving (the Macedonians and Jesus)
- 4 basics of giving (Follow Through, Willingness, Meeting Needs and some Necessary Precautions)

### 1) Giving is Intentional vs 1-5

2Cr 9:1

For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints;

- Superfluous means exceedingly or above and beyond what is needed.
- Paul is saying that he shouldn’t need to write about giving.

2Cr 9:2

for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, *namely*, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them.

2Cr 9:3

But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared;

2Cr 9:4

otherwise if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to speak of you—will be put to shame by this confidence.

- In chapter 8:1-5, Paul had boasted of the Macedonians to the Corinthians about their giving.
- In this chapter Paul is telling the Corinthians that he had been boasting about the Corinthians to the Macedonians.
  - That last year they had been prepared to give.
  - **1 Corinthians 16:1-5** *“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come. When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem; and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me. But I will come to you after I go through Macedonia, for I am going through Macedonia:”*
- The Corinthians had let Paul know that they desired to give to the poor in Jerusalem. Based on their word Paul counted on them. He was so convinced of their sincerity to give that he had told the Macedonians of their desire to give. Now he is headed to them and perhaps a delegation of the Macedonians might come with him.
- Paul sent a team ahead to be sure they had followed through with what they had told Paul. Paul is telling them to not put them in that embarrassing place of having to explain their lack of performance of their word.

2Cr 9:5

So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness.

- Paul is sending Titus ahead to make sure that there is the follow through with what has been promised. It happens all the time that people sign up for things or promise things when they first hear of something. Then there is a period of time until the event or the assigned time for the work to be done. The zeal has cooled. Sometimes the follow through is not what was planned for.
- Paul is reminding them that they were speaking of a *“bountiful gift”* that could be given to the poor in Jerusalem.
- The NKJV reads *“that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation”*
  - Paul does not want to get to Corinth and start the process and be receiving offerings and begging for the poor.
  - This is the nature of the Christian. It is a matter of GENEROSITY. It is not an obligation that is begrudged.

2Cr 9:6

## 2) Giving Should be Bountiful and Cheerful vs 6-7

Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

- Here is a law that is as real as any other universal law. Just like the law of gravity it isn't broken.
- In Galatians 6:7-8 **WHAT** you sow is what you will reap. *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."*
- In nature we learn **WHEN** concerning sowing and reaping. You will always reap AFTER you sow. Due to the instant gratification we are accustomed to tempts us to not understand this law. We want it now. Immediately. The reaping comes later, after the sowing.
- Here we learn **HOW MUCH** you sow is a matter of the heart and has a universal law. This speaks directly to the definition of generosity.
  - Sow SPARINGLY -- Reaps SPARINGLY
  - Sows BOUNTIFULLY -- Reaps BOUNTIFULLY
  - The Farmer who sows seed cannot have the idea of "LOSS" when he sows his seed. If so he will control the sowing and hold back for fear of the loss. His focus should be on the harvest to come. The bountiful harvest will come because he bountifully sowed the seed.
  - You will always reap more than you sow. So the farmer who holds back is foolish. He is limiting
  - Luke 6:38 *"Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."*
  - Proverbs 3:9-10 *"Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine."*

2Cr 9:7

Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

- This MUST BE DONE!
- Give what is purposed in his heart.
  - Again we see it is PURPOSED. This idea is previously determined.
  - It is from the Giver's heart. Not determined by others, a pastor or a denomination.
- Not grudgingly or by obligation. Grudgingly = without resentment or hesitation.
  - To take this one statement and simply say "I don't give if I give grudgingly or by obligation" is missing the point. If this is our attitude in giving; YES it needs correction. So let's not give but let's pray and allow a change of heart to occur. That we can give cheerfully.
- Give Cheerfully = with a smile; with pleasure
  - Isn't it a fascinating concept to give a lot with pleasure. Too much giving is done as a chore. We need to pray and have our hearts and purposes changed. That we can give and it be a source of pleasure for us.

2Cr 9:8

Sufficiency

2Cr 9:9

## 3) Giving is Rewarded with Blessings vs 8-15

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."

- God gives "ALL GRACE" - Giving is a grace demonstrated through us from God. The poor among us are blessed by God because of our obedience. This is part of His plan of Grace.
- As this principal is in work through the church, His Grace is sufficient for the Poor and sufficient for the church.
  - God supplies the Seed, God supplies the Sower (that is you and me)
  - God Gives To The Poor - Do You?
- 2 Corinthians 3:5 *"Not that we are adequate (sufficient) in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy (sufficiency) is from God"*

- 2 Corinthians 12:9 "He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.""

2Cr 9:10  
Increase

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;

- Look at the words here:
  - He supplies the seed and bread (He supplies this universal law)
  - He MULTIFLIES
  - He INCREASES God will not be indebted to anyone. You cannot out give God.
- Not only is bread reaped but there is a righteousness harvested with generous giving.

2Cr 9:11  
Thanksgiving

you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

2Cr 9:12

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.

- Giving to the poor is not only meeting needs.
- It produces Thanksgiving to be offered up to God. Paul is saying that this is one of the goals.

2Cr 9:13  
Glory to God

Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,

2Cr 9:14

while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.

- Giving of your money is PROOF that you love. You Love God and you Love People.
- Paul is saying to these gentiles that the Jews in Jerusalem will Glorify God for them for their proof of obedience. This will nurture unity between Jew and Gentile.
- Their Faith is Observable. YOUR FAITH IS OBSERVABLE!

2Cr 9:15

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

- Paul realized he has attempted to expound this universal law that he wants to see developed in the church. But the law is so vast, so precious, so powerfully beneficial to the church and to others that he has only touched the tip of the iceberg.

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