

# God's Inexpressible Gift!

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

## Introduction

### 10 Points of Appeal for Sacrificial Giving and Steadfast Service in the Church of Jesus Christ

As proof of their mutual love for Christ and each other:

#### 1. Paul is appealing to them on the basis of a *Divine PRINCIPLE* (v6)

*(v6) The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Proverbs 3:9-11).

“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered” (Proverbs 11:24-25).

“One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, And He will repay him for his good deed” (Proverbs 19:17).

#### 2. Paul is appealing to them on the basis of their *Heart PURPOSE* (v7)

*(v7) Each one must give as he has made up his mind/as he has purposed in his heart (NAS), not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Giving should be done with determined purpose that has settled in the *heart*. It should be desirable. It should be intentional.

Giving of our resources should never be done either begrudgingly or under the pressure of compulsion.

**God desires the heart to be behind every service and every act of giving.**

#### 3. Paul is appealing to them on the basis of *Promised PROSPERITY* (v8)

*(v8) 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/have an abundance (NAS) in every good work.*

You cannot ‘out give’ God. This is the only area in which God invites us to “test” Him:

“Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Malachi 3:10).

“give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you” (Luke 6:38)

The divine blessing rests upon the person who gives liberally by faith, out of love and appreciation. God keeps him from want. More than that, He promises to prosper him!

#### **4. Paul is appealing to them on the basis of *Righteous PERPETUITY* (v9)**

*(v9) As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."*

“Perpetuity” means ‘a thing that last forever.’ There will be no end.

The benefits of our generous giving and steadfast service to Jesus Christ last eternally.

#### **Of the “righteous” man who gives generously and serves faithfully, the psalmist wrote:**

“Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever. Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous. It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice. For the righteous will never be moved;

he will be remembered forever. He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord. His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries. He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor” (Psalm 112:3-9).

“The spiritual and material flow of Gifts coming from God to the believer may never stop with the recipient. It must be passed on to alleviate the needs of others in church and society. The believer must always be a human channel through which divine grace flows to enrich others” (Kistemaker).

#### **God wants you to invest in the *harvest of your righteous deeds*; a harvest that will last forever.**

“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life” (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

#### **The utter *futility* of living if only for this life here on earth:**

"I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and striving after wind" (Ecclesiastes 1:14).

"Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

"So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind" (Ecclesiastes 2:17).

### **Sow to the things that will profit you eternally:**

"Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you" (Hosea 10:12).

"You have plowed iniquity; you have reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way" (Hosea 10:13).

"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he 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. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:7-10).

Paul sets the priority for the Christian life in Galatians 6:10:

"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith" (Galatians 6:10).

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

### **5. Paul is appealing to them on the basis of *Promised PROVISION* (v10)**

*(v10) 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.*

This verse is a declaration; not a wish. It is a statement of *promise*; not of possibility.

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater" (Isaiah 55:10).

"If the earth giveth thee larger fruits than it has received, how much more shall the requiring of mercy repay thee manifold more than thou gavest!"

The one who scatters liberally will always be supplied with more by the One who provides for all.

**Grace well used draws more grace.**

*“For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace”* (John 1:16).

There is a *greed*-based withholding that desires to collect and keep more and is never happy or satisfied. And there is a *grace*-based giving that desires to give more and is always joyful and ever satisfied.

**CONCLUSION; part one**

It takes faith to believe that giving will open up the storehouse of God’s blessing. It takes even *greater* faith to practice that principle.

We serve a God who is able to *“do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think”* (Ephesians 3:20).

*“For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day”* (2 Timothy 1:12).