



Life Group Questions
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EMBRACE
God's Word



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Date: May 23, 2021

Scripture: [2 Corinthians 9:6-11](#)

1. The first 5 verses of Chapter 5 provide helpful background context for our sermon passage. The principles that Paul sets out in the rest of chapter 9 (and we explored in the message) are delivered in the context of Paul's reminder to the Corinthians of their past promise to participate generously in Paul's collection for the Jerusalem church, which he is on his way to collect from them.

Read [2 Corinthians 9:1-5](#) and [2 Corinthians 8:10-12](#).

- What concern does Paul express in these verses? How does he address this concern with the Corinthian church?
- How does this provide additional context for his teaching in vv. 6 and 7 about bountiful, deliberate, cheerful giving (hint: "The point is this . . ." and "each one . . .") and in vv. 8-11 about the Fountain of Abundant Generosity (hint: "And God . . .")

2. In verses 6-7, we explored the Characteristics of a Generous Heart.

- Bountiful (not Sparing) Giving:
 - Take a look again at Michael Beck's Daily Bread picture: <https://journeyswiththemessiah.org/product/daily-bread-2/>
 - Do you tend to be more like the man on the right (having more of a Sparing Heart – a heart that sees God as a taker) or are you seated at the table on the right with Jesus (having more of a Bountiful Heart – a heart that sees God as a giver)? Why?



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- If you struggle with a Sparing Heart, how does what Paul unveils in vv. 8-11 help us to move towards Jesus' invitation to sit at the table with him and trust Him for our daily bread?
- How is the principle of bountiful sowing and bountiful reaping (that we will end up with more if we give away more, that the best way to increase something is to subtract from it) counterintuitive from the world's perspective? What does the world's perspective forget or leave out?
- Can you share an experience like August Francke where you saw the principle of bountiful sowing and bountiful reaping play out in your own life?
- Deliberate, Purposeful, Heart-level Giving:
 - Read [1 Corinthians 16:1-2](#). Here Paul gives additional guidance to the Corinthian church on how they should give. What other principles of God pleasing giving does Paul set forth here?
 - When you make giving decisions, do you tend to follow your heart more or your head more? To which side should we err? How do God's promises in this passage help us to err on the side of the promptings of our heart?



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- Cheerful (not reluctant and not under compulsion) Giving:
 - Are you generally a cheerful giver or do you struggle with either being a reluctant giver or someone who gives under compulsion?
 - Can you share examples of where you were challenged, even by other Christians, to give in a way that was under compulsion or caused you to do so reluctantly?
 - Why does God love a cheerful giver? Can you share an experience where you gave cheerfully and joyfully?

3. The Foundation of a Generous Heart.

NOTE: In vv. 8 and 10, Paul sets out some principles that were illustrated in the sermon through the idea of a Fountain of Abundant Generosity. In that illustration, the source (God) pours into the conduit (or basin) an abundant supply, that the flow out from the conduit/basin (us), which retains only what is needed for sufficiency or contentment, may overflow in abundant generosity BOTH to us (in the term of replenished and multiplied seed to sow) AND to the benefit of others (in terms of an ever increasing flow of generosity and the resulting, bountiful harvest of righteousness).

- Explain in your own words how each of vv. 8 and 10 relate to this fountain illustration.
- Abundant Supply: In verse 8, count and name all of the adjectives that describe God's promises to a bountiful giver. What does it say about God's heart and what encouragement is it to you in your giving of your time, talents and treasures?



- Contentment: What phrases in vv. 8 and 10 speak to contentment (sufficiency)? What is the key to living contentedly (see [1 Timothy 6:6](#) and Pastor Jeremy's sermon two weeks ago)? Is living with contentment easy or hard for you? Why?
 - Outflow: What phrases in vv. 8 and 10 speak to the outflow of our generosity? What do they tell us (both in terms of God's supply of more seed to sow and the harvest that comes from our generous sowing)?
 - Can you share an example of where God used you as an open handed conduit or channel to meet the needs of others from resources He supplied?
4. In verse 9, Paul makes reference to the example of the generous man described in Psalm 112. [Read Psalm 112.](#)
- What evidences of his generosity (e.g., "righteous character") do we see in these verses)?
 - What blessings in this life does the Psalmist list that flow to a person who lives with such generosity?
 - What blessings in eternity does the Psalmist list that are promised to a person who lives with such generosity?
 - How is this example a further encouragement to us to be open-handed, generous, cheerful givers?



5. The Way to a Generous Heart

- What is the principle Paul lays out in v. 8a ("God is able") and in verse 11, that is key to being generous, open-handed, bountiful givers who participate in God's abundant flow of blessings and generosity?
- How does this principle relate to the "conduits" or "channels" element (and the idea of contentment and sufficiency) of the Fountain of Abundant Generosity illustration?
- Is Paul suggesting that wealth (being enriched) is a bad thing? If not, what is he suggesting, and what does it mean for the size of our basins (lifestyles)?

6. In verses 12 to 15, Paul concludes his discussion of cheerful giving with a description of the many additional benefits and blessings that flow out of believers who step into the flow of this fountain and live as open handed, cheerful, contented conduits of God's abundant resources.

- Read vv. 12 to 15.
- List as many of the benefits of being a bountiful, open handed, cheerful giver as you can find here (there are at least 4 or 5).
- How do these benefits provide additional encouragement to us to be open-handed, cheerful, and generous givers?



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7. At the end of the sermon, we were each challenged to take some next step towards living more with an open hand with our time, talents, and treasures. If comfortable, share any next steps you have sensed God urging to take or changes you have decided to take.

Please finish by praying for the needs of your group, including each next step towards being an open-handed, bountiful, and cheerful conduit of God's grace and blessings to others that was shared in your group.