

GLADNESS AND GENEROSITY: SERMON (2)

GLADNESS & GENEROSITY: 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

“The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written: “They freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever”

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. 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.

This 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. Because 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. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

“God loves a cheerful giver!” Paul is working to support the “ministry to the saints” and helping churches share their abundance generously. Paul is concerned about both our attitude toward giving because he knows the effect giving will have on others.

Paul tells us:

vs6...whoever sows generously – reaps generously

vs7...give what their heart has decided

vs7...not give reluctantly

vs7...be a cheerful giver

vs9...freely scatter gifts to the poor

vs11...be generous on every occasion

And why should we do these generous acts?

vs7...God loves a cheerful giver

vs8...God is able to bless you abundantly

vs8...you’ll have all you needs met

vs9...righteousness will endure forever

vs10...increase our store

vs10...He will enlarge the harvest of your RIGHTEOUSNESS

vs11...supplies seeds (wow...these could be spiritual too ☺)

vs11...God provides you with food

vs11...be enriched in every way

These are all beautiful results...What rich blessings we have...

And the effect on others will be:

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vs11...thanksgiving to God

vs12...supplies the needs for Gods people

vs13...others will praise God for your obedience

vs13...you are confessing the gospel of Christ

vs14...their prayers will go out for you

Thanks be to God for this wonderful gift...to be generous to others!

Why do the Corinthians need to be GLAD? The Corinthians needed to keep focusing on God, keep reminding themselves that He is the one who sent His only Son to die for their sins, to make the way for their salvation...and that He conquered death, and rose again...and sent His Holy Spirit to help them live out their life here on earth until He comes again.

They needed to regularly encourage each other that they have so much to be GLAD about...because God loves a cheerful giver.

Think for a moment of the most generous person you know. What qualities come to mind? Do they have characteristics that are: open, warm, helpful, honest, full of life, passionate, thankful, compassionate, joy filled; these might be just a few!

We can give thanks to God for the generous people who bless our lives.

Generous people have a certain attitude toward giving, they give without complaint; they give to more than one cause or ministry; they understand their generosity to be as much for their own need as for another's; they believe generosity is more than money; generosity encompasses the whole of life, including our time, talent, treasure, and temperament.

As Gladness forms into a habit, Generosity becomes 'Who we are!'

Practicing Gladness cultivates generosity in ways that foster these qualities in us as followers of Christ and in our congregations as we serve others in Christ's name. Our gladness should nurture joy and share the good news of all that we are called to do in Christ's name.

Let's begin celebrating God's abundance in our lives, in our community, and in our congregation.

Together, let us nurture a joyful Gladness that overflows into Generosity and consider the many ways it is beneficial to our lives and the lives of others!

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October 2018