

## 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, The Goal of Giving

<sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

### Notes:

- 2 Corinthians chs. 8-9 is the longest teaching on giving in the New Testament.
- The basic principles here are that giving should be generous (v.2), sacrificial (v. 3), cheerful (v. 9:7), and proportional (v. 12), and motivated by Christ's sacrifice for us (v. 9).
- We must be careful not to think of this mechanically, as if we give *then* God will multiply it and give back to us. Or as if this is some kind of Christian karma or proof-text for investing financially expecting a ROI. The encouragement is be a generous person, rooted in the grace of God and reflecting his generosity to you, so that others are blessed by God through you. One is not generous, is not in touch with the generosity of God.

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### Questions

1. Do you tend to be a saver or a spender? How is being generous different from both of those?
2. Consider Proverbs 30:7-9, what temptations do you face when you have less and what temptations do you face when you have much?
3. How does the generosity of God motivate our giving?
4. If you opened your check book or credit card bill to scrutiny before God, how may he encourage you and challenge you? How can you do the same for each other?