

"Contagious Joyful Generosity"

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

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The Goal: That we would each know the joy of giving.

Key verse: 2 Corinthians 9:7

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

The Problem: Pride and selfishness can make us stingy and turn us into reluctant or begrudging givers.

The Solution: Having benefited from God's generosity to us in Christ Jesus, how further blessed we will be, knowing that the lives of others will be eternally impacted by our generosity to them.

Notes:

Digging Deeper (November 11/12, 2017)

Joyful Generosity

OPEN: Share a time when you personally experienced great joy in being able to be generous?

DIG: Read **2 Corinthians 9:1-15**.

1. What do **2 Corinthians 9:7** and **1 Timothy 6:17-19** say about Christian giving and generosity?
 - a. The *decided in his heart* is a choosing beforehand, that is, *planning*. How does the Christian decide and plan when it comes to giving and generosity?
 - b. The Greek word for *cheerful* (ἡλάρος *hilaros*) is where we get the English word, *hilarious*. What perspective does this provide when it comes to giving and generosity?
2. What do *The Widow at Zarephath* (**1 Kings 17:7-24**), and *The Christians at Philippi* (**2 Corinthians 8:1-4; Philippians 4:14-16,19**) teach us about giving and generosity?
3. According to the following passages, what promises does God make concerning giving and generosity?
 - a. Luke 6:38
 - b. Acts 20:35
 - c. Matthew 6:31-33
 - d. Proverbs 3:9-10
 - e. Proverbs 11:25
 - f. Malachi 3:10-12
 - g. 2 Corinthians 9:10-14
4. What is God's *indescribable gift* to us (**2 Corinthians 9:15; John 3:16**) and what bearing does that have on our giving and generosity? (Consider **1 John 4:11**.)

REFLECT

1. Consider God's math versus our math when it comes to giving: *We subtract and divide; God adds and multiplies!* What insight does this provide?
2. Why do you think Christian generosity can be such a joyful and liberating experience?
3. How does it help us fear, love, and trust God above all else?
4. How does engaging in generosity help us become more fully human?

How does it help us enter into the gracious and generous nature of God?