



3/13/26

*On this week's Chosen and Cherished podcast, we talked about our Heavenly Father. What's in a name? A lot!!! Jesus came to make the Father's name known. As much as I've read God's word, I don't think I thought about that part very deeply. Hopefully, this episode will change that for you and me. If you'd like to listen, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*2 Corinthians 9:6-12*

*This is the second letter we have of Paul's letters to the Corinthian Church. We know that he wrote another letter in between these 2 letters, but we don't have it. I just find that interesting... Apparently, God didn't need for us to know what his actual 2nd letter in order to help us understand Him and grow in Him.*

*In this letter, at this point, the church had made a promise of a gift for the believers in Jerusalem. He was sending some people to help them get their gift ready. This COULD sound kinda pushy. Was he forcing them to give a gift? No. God never wants His people to give anything begrudgingly or out of compulsion. Truly, giving financially is an act of worship.*

*Vs. 6 ~ "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."*

*This is the point... not that we would give because we HAVE to. No one ever wants someone to give a gift because they feel forced. There's no love in that. But we can't outgive God. Just like a farmer who plants seeds in the ground but can't produce a harvest without help, even our giving reaps a harvest that is fully given by the Lord. And just like a farmer who only plants a few seeds will only have the possibility of reaping a small harvest, and a farmer who plants a lot of seeds will have the potential to reap a much bigger harvest... so what I give to the Lord, though blessed by Him either way, will affect the harvest I reap. If I sow only a small amount, I will yield a small amount. If I sow a lot, I will yield a lot.*

*My finances are a great tangible measure of my worship and trust in the Lord. If I don't trust that He'll provide for me and bless me, I won't be very generous. But if I trust Him completely, then I will open my hands to Him and say, "Father, it's all from You anyway. What amount of the blessing You've given me would please You as I give back for Your honor and glory?"*

*Vs. 7 ~ "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

*God does not want me to give to Him with regret or a feeling like I HAVE to. He wants me to decide in my heart what I will give. My heart is my control center... the place where my feelings, desires, and choices live. If I decide in my mind but not in my heart, I either won't give... or I will give but I'll resent it. He who created and owns everything, who is in need of nothing, is far more interested in my heart than how much I give. He loves a cheerful giver, one who is excited to give back to Him for His purposes out of gratitude for all He's given to me.*

*Vs. 8-9 ~ "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 in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.'"*

*God is not excited about hoarding. Here, Paul speaks of God's grace... His generous favor to us who don't deserve it. Why speak of God's grace when we're talking about a financial gift? Anything I have, even my breath, and definitely my money, is a blessing of His grace. It's His provision for me. As I cheerfully give because of my love for Him, He graciously provides what I need to be content... and to continue the work of ministry... pointing people to Jesus.*

*Paul wasn't wanting to use the Corinthians' financial gift for personal gain. He was excited that they were wanting to participate in the financial and tangible furthering of the gospel. And he understood that they were giving a portion of what God had faithfully given them. It wasn't about the number on the check. It was about the worship of the heart.*

*Then Paul quoted Psalm 112:9 which is from a psalm that is all about how generosity is tangible evidence of the righteous one who worships the Lord. He gives freely to those in need because his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord. His heart is steady and unafraid of the enemy because he trusts the Lord as his protection and provision.*

*Vs. 10 ~ "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."*

*Again, I see that I would have no seed to sow if the Lord did not provide. Let me not be deceived into thinking I can accomplish ANYTHING without His help.*

*When I give from a heart of worship, God uses my cheerful financial gifts to increase the harvest of my righteousness. Money is temporary. Righteousness is eternal. God takes my*

*willingness to give of a temporary gift to bless me with an eternal gift that brings everlasting peace. I would say I'm getting the better end of this deal!*

*Vs. 11 ~ "You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God."*

*As I give my tangible, temporal monetary gift with a cheerful heart of worship, God enriches me in EVERY way. The riches I receive from Him are far greater than financial wealth. I receive the riches of His wisdom and knowledge and joy and hope and love. I've seen a lot of people who thought money would buy them happiness... and I've seen a lot of people find out the hard way that it doesn't. What God gives me is an eternal treasure that no one can take away. Sadly, I can be blind to the truth of His treasure. O Lord, please open my eyes to see how Your treasures are so much better!!!*

*In Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." When I take this to heart and truly believe that His eternal treasures are exponentially and immeasurably greater than anything this world has to offer, that's when I will be able to give with a cheerful heart... because I'm overwhelmed by His generosity to me. That's when my giving will be an overflow of my gratitude to Him.*

*Vs. 12 ~ "For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God."*

*There's such a beautiful mutuality that comes when God's children are worshiping Him with cheerful, willing hearts. My giving to others helps provide for their needs and it helps them grow in their faith. God blesses me for giving and them for receiving the gift. And ultimately, all of us are thankful to God because I realize that I would have no gift to give if He didn't provide for me... and they realize that there would be no provision for them if He didn't orchestrate their gift. It all comes from God. This is His generosity... to give His people the privilege of being part of His work... to help us know Him and the generosity of His heart.*

*O Lord, I want to sow bountifully because You bountifully give to me. Let my love for You and my hope of the gospel motivate me to prayerfully, tangibly give to You, for Your glory. After all, "What do I have that I did not receive? And if I did receive it, why would I glory in myself as though I had not received it?" (1 Corinthians 4:7).*

*Thank You for the gift of Your Son, for the eternal gift of salvation. I pray that I will give of everything I have... time, money, prayer, love... with a cheerful, willing heart. Amen.*