

“FINANCIAL FREEDOM”

PART 4

“WE HAVE ENOUGH”

OBJECTIVE: TO DISCOVER WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP. UNDERSTAND HOW TO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES THAT GOD OUTLINES FOR HIS CHILDREN.

KEY SCRIPTURES: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8/ROMANS 12:6-8

MATTHEW 6:33

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-9 SPEAKS ABOUT THE PRINCIPLE OF SOWING AND REAPING IN THE CONTEXT OF GIVING. IT ENCOURAGES GENEROSITY, HIGHLIGHTING THAT THOSE WHO GIVE GENEROUSLY WILL ALSO REAP GENEROUSLY, AND THAT GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER. THE PASSAGE ALSO EMPHASIZES THAT GOD WILL PROVIDE FOR THOSE WHO GIVE, ENSURING THEY HAVE WHAT THEY NEED TO CONTINUE GIVING.

- **Sowing and Reaping:**

THE PASSAGE USES THE ANALOGY OF FARMING TO ILLUSTRATE THAT THE AMOUNT OF GIVING DETERMINES THE AMOUNT OF BLESSING RECEIVED. SOWING SPARINGLY LEADS TO A MEAGER HARVEST, WHILE SOWING GENEROUSLY RESULTS IN A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST.

- **Cheerful Giving:**

THE GREEK WORD FOR CHEERFUL (HILAROS) IMPLIES JOY AND HAPPINESS. GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER, EMPHASIZING THAT

GIVING SHOULD BE DONE WITH A WILLING HEART AND NOT OUT OF OBLIGATION OR COMPULSION.

- **God's Provision:**

THE PASSAGE ASSURES THAT GOD WILL PROVIDE FOR THOSE WHO GIVE, ENSURING THEY HAVE WHAT THEY NEED AND EVEN AN ABUNDANCE TO CONTINUE GIVING.

- **Purpose of Giving:**

GIVING SHOULD BE SEEN AS AN ACT OF WORSHIP, A WAY TO PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S WORK, AND A WAY TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR HIS GRACE

.

- **Avoiding Reluctance:**

THE PASSAGE WARNS AGAINST GIVING OUT OF RELUCTANCE OR COMPULSION, EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF A WILLING AND CHEERFUL HEART.

- **Examples and Applications:**

THE PRINCIPLES OF 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-9 CAN BE APPLIED TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF LIFE, INCLUDING GIVING FINANCIALLY, GIVING OF TIME AND TALENTS, AND SUPPORTING OTHERS IN NEED.

- **Thanksgiving and Glorifying God:**

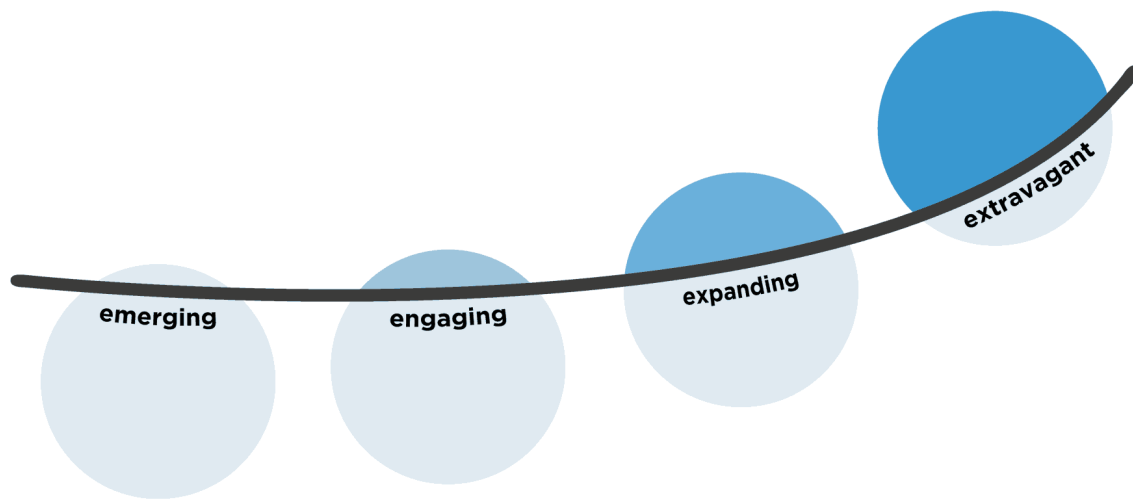
GENEROUS GIVING SHOULD LEAD TO THANKSGIVING TO GOD AND GLORIFY HIS NAME.

IN ESSENCE, 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-9 TEACHES THAT GIVING IS NOT A LOSS BUT AN INVESTMENT THAT YIELDS BLESSINGS, AND THAT GIVING SHOULD BE DONE WITH A JOYFUL AND WILLING HEART, REFLECTING GOD'S OWN GENEROUS NATURE.

YOU CAN SOW IN A TIGHTFISTED WAY. THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, THOUGH, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT. IF YOU SOW SPARINGLY, YOU WON'T GET MUCH OF A RESULT. IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO TRY TO SAVE ON SEEDS WHEN EACH SEED COULD PRODUCE ANYWHERE FROM 30 TO 100 TIMES THE NUMBER OF SEED THAT YOU SOW.

THE ALTERNATIVE PAUL GIVES IS TO "SOW BOUNTIFULLY." PAUL WANTS THEM TO GIVE IN A GENEROUS, OPEN-HANDED WAY THAT WILL LEAD TO A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST. (PROVERBS 11:24-25)

I LOVE HOW ONE CHURCH PICTURES IT. WE'RE ALL ON THE SPECTRUM BETWEEN AN EMERGING GIVER AND AN EXTRAVAGANT GIVER. I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE ON THIS SPECTRUM, BUT WHAT PAUL TELLS US IS SIMPLE: KEEP MOVING TO THE RIGHT. MAKE IT YOUR AIM TO BECOME A MORE GENEROUS GIVER.



YOU WOULD THINK THAT IT'S ENOUGH TO GIVE GENEROUSLY, BUT IT'S NOT. PAUL ALSO WANTS US TO GIVE CHEERFULLY AS WELL. EVERYONE SHOULD GIVE THE AMOUNT THEY'VE DECIDED IN THEIR OWN HEART. WHAT YOU GIVE IS SOMETHING YOU NEED TO WORK OUT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. IT'S NOT TO BE A PUBLIC DECISION, NOR SHOULD IT BE FLAUNTED.

HOWEVER MUCH YOU DECIDE TO GIVE, TWO THINGS SHOULD NOT BE TRUE ABOUT YOUR MOTIVES:

- IT SHOULDN'T BE MOTIVATED BY SAD FEELINGS. THE WORD "RELUCTANTLY" REFERS TO SAD OR DISTRESSED GIVING, IN CONTRAST TO HAPPY GIVING. WHATEVER YOU GIVE SHOULD NOT BE MOTIVATED BY NEGATIVE FEELINGS.*
- IT SHOULDN'T BE MOTIVATED BY EXTERNAL PRESSURE. WE'VE BEEN THERE: WE KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE SOMEONE PUT PRESSURE ON US TO GIVE.*

GOD DOESN'T WANT YOU TO GIVE OUT OF GUILT OR PRESSURE. HOW SHOULD WE GIVE THEN? [DEUTERONOMY 15:10](#) SAYS, "YOU SHALL GIVE TO HIM FREELY, AND YOUR HEART SHALL NOT BE GRUDGING WHEN YOU GIVE TO HIM, BECAUSE FOR THIS THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BLESS YOU IN ALL YOUR WORK AND IN ALL THAT YOU UNDERTAKE." HERE, PAUL SAYS, "GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER."

PAUL TEACHES US THAT THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO FAIL AT GIVING. IF YOU GIVE GENEROUSLY BUT NOT JOYFULLY, YOU'VE GIVEN THE WRONG WAY. IF YOU'RE JOYFUL BUT NOT GENEROUS, YOU'VE FAILED. GOD WANTS US TO GIVE AT THE INTERSECTION OF GENEROSITY AND JOY. HE WANTS YOUR GENEROSITY, AND HE WANTS YOUR JOY. HE WANTS YOU TO BE CHEERFUL AND HE WANTS YOU TO BE OBEDIENT.