



Approved by the Board
of Directors June, 2018

CORE BIBLICAL PASSAGE

“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.” (II Corinthians 9:10 ESV)

In a letter in which the Apostle Paul is encouraging the Corinthian church to generous giving toward God’s work, two words leap off the page: supply and multiply. During a period of searching for guidance for the vision of a ministry through which family, friends, and local churches could share Christ in Montrouis, Haiti, those two words, taken from 2 Corinthians 9:10, became the basis of the ministry that now takes its name from them.

The immediate context of this passage of Scripture is the Apostles’ discussion about God’s attitude toward the cheerful giver. The Apostle Paul is here telling the believers in Corinth that their “gift will maximize their joy, help fellow believers, and bring honor and praise to God.”¹

The ministry philosophy of Supply and Multiply is rooted in an attitude of generosity of time, talents, resources and possessions. We give as Christ gives. The 17th century Congregational pastor, Thomas Brooks, wrote, “The world give, but they give tauntingly, they give upbraidingly²; they hit men in the teeth with the gifts they give. Ay, but the Lord Jesus Christ gives, and he gives willingly, he upbraids none with the gifts he gives.”³

There is a kind of giving common in the world that is utterly inconsistent with the giving of Christ and that spirit of generosity Christ has given to His Church. We are not called to give condescendingly. We should not share the compassion of Christ or the gospel of Christ to humiliate. We do so only to lift up!

We are called to give generously, as one lost sinner telling another where to find hope. We are called to give the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ in order that others, like we, may find the superabundant grace of God available in Christ alone.

We must give the compassion of Christ as brothers and sisters, with no strings attached. We must expect nothing in return. Our expectation is only that God will be faithful to His Word. As we give, we can trust that He will continue to supply and multiply our offering to His glory alone!

A comment in the Interpreter’s Bible gives a greater perspective: “**He Will Supply and Multiply**. – The whole process of sowing and reaping, by which the wants of man are met, as the providence of God behind it. The sower must sow the seed if he and others are to be fed. He does not fear to put his seed grain into the earth, for he knows the power that waits in the soil to multiply it. The same law of increasing returns operates in the life of faith. To those who give, God responds by increasing their power to give.”⁴

Plant seeds of faith and harvest fruit in this generation. We already have all the resources we need to do whatever and wherever God leads us! As John Chrysostom wrote in the 4th century, “If God rewards those who till the earth with abundance, how much more will he reward those who till the soil of heaven in caring for the soul?”⁵

¹ ESV Study Bible, study note, II Corinthians 9:6-15. Crossway, 2008.

² Definition: Upbraid – find fault with (someone); scold. (dictionary.com)

³ Thomas Brooks, Complete Works of, Volume III, page 111, Banner of Truth Trust.

⁴ The Interpreter’s Bible, volume 10, page 378, Abingdon press, 1953.

⁵ Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture – New Testament VII: 1-2 Corinthians.