

A MODEL FOR GODLY GIVING!

A Study of 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

a sermon resource created by Stan Reeder



Introduction:

I love the story of the little boy who had to stay home from church with his mother because he was sick. It happened to be Palm Sunday and so the rest of the family came home from church carrying palm branches. "What are they for?" "Oh it was really cool – Jesus came walking down the aisle and we all waved our palm branches!" "Wouldn't you know it, I miss church for one Sunday... and Jesus shows up."

Jesus shows up every day around the world through the work of the church

I want to walk you through a very pertinent Scripture that provides one of the finest models for Godly giving:

READ – 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

PRAY – LORD, WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE THROUGH ME TO REACH ALL PEOPLE WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS?

THE RE MINDER:

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. – 2 Corinthians 9:6

Invest in any area sparingly and you'll get a sparse harvest; invest generously, you'll get a great harvest.

In the work of the church today, we need to be about the business of spreading the Good News of Jesus all around the world. WHY? Because...

- Every week, through the work of the Church of the Nazarene, there are 23 churches planted, over 11,000 children fed and educated, and over 12,000 people accept Jesus as their Savior. We plant 23 new churches. McDonalds only starts 5 new restaurants.
- Every week, through our Nazarene family there are 850 more people disciplined and 1,632 people become members of the Nazarene Church.
- Our church has presence in 165 world areas so we can assist with compassion when disaster strikes. There are only 195 countries in the world. McDonalds has restaurants in 114 countries. We have churches in more countries than McDonalds has restaurants!

We have a message that the world desperately needs today!

It's a message that you are **LOVED** by God!

It's a message of **GRACE** and **FORGIVENESS** for the past it's a message that brings **JOY** and **PEACE** for today it's a message of **HOPE** and **TRANSFORMATION** for the future!

It's a message of **FREEDOM** and **POWER**, and **HEALTH**, and **WHOLENESS**.

It's the greatest message the world has ever heard!! And that's good preaching, even if I'm the one that's doing it.

The needs are too great in our world today – we cannot afford to sow sparingly. *“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”* (2 Corinthians 9:6)

THE RE LUCTANCE:

Each person should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:7

The Lord loveth a cheerful giver; But He also accepteth from a grouch.

Someone once asked: Who is happier, the man with 10 kids or the man with 10 million dollars? Well, the obvious answer is the man with 10 kids is happier because the man with 10 million dollars still wants more.

We often make the mistake of thinking that money brings happiness. But the truth is...

Jean Chatsky wrote the book, “You Don’t have to be Rich.” It details extensive clinical research with thousands of subjects that measured the correlation between happiness and money Her results are two-fold: First, she discovered that more money actually influences your happiness level until the family of four people reaches the “basic necessity threshold”. It is the money needed to heat a dwelling and provide food for the family. In her research, if a family of four had an income under the basic necessity threshold, their happiness would actually be increased by an increase in their income.

Second, she discovered that after the “basic necessity threshold” there was no correlation between money and happiness. The person that had ten million dollars in the bank was no happier than the person that had \$1,000 in the bank, as long as they were reaching the “basic necessity threshold”. The person making \$10 million was not one bit happier than the person making just enough to get by!

There is no reward as **GETTING** more

But there is huge reward in **GIVING** more.

THE RE WARD: (2 Corinthians 9:8-11a)

The Lord promised us: It is more blessed to give than to receive. – Acts 20:35

God is able to...

1. Satisfy your need. (2 Corinthians 9:8).

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work... – 2 Corinthians 9:8

It is not uncommon to give away and then be seized with fears: “Will I have enough?” “What will happen if the car breaks down?” “What happens if I get an unexpected bill?” --- By the way have you noticed how they have now stuff a bunch of advertisements in with the bills that come in the mail? Like bills aren’t bad enough, they stuff them with junk mail too.

Andy Rooney came up with a way to get back at them. He said: “I put garbage in with my check when I mail it in. Coffee grinds, banana peels... I write, “Could you throw this out for me? Thank

you.”

But what happens if an unexpected bill arrives just after I give generously? There is one word that appears four times in that 8th verse... ALL! The Lord is able to meet ALL your needs!

2. Supply Seed to the Sower (2 Corinthians 9:10a)

Now he who supplies seed to the sower... – 2 Corinthians 9:10a

The Lord does not supply seed for the “keeper”... he supplies the seed for the “sower”. As you decide in your heart to sow into the lives of others,

God works a miracle... HE WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE VERY SEED THAT HE HAS INSTRUCTED YOU TO SOW... He will not only supply your seed; He will also...

3. Multiply your seed (2 Corinthians 9:10b)

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed. – 2 Corinthians 9:10

Not only does the Lord satisfy your needs, and supply your seed... he actually takes it one step further: he will increase your store of seed. Now we all know this is the way it works in the natural realm. A farmer sows one kernel of corn but the Lord rewards him with an entire stalk with several ears of corn with each ear averaging 403 kernels. He sows one kernel and he harvests over 1,000 kernels. We know that is the way the Lord set up nature to operate but somehow we think it will be different when it comes to our giving.

When I was a pastor, I had just preached on trusting the Lord with the tithe. A lady who had been a Christian all her life – she was now in her late 60’s told me she knew the Lord was calling her to begin tithing. She was among the working poor of today. She was a waitress at Denny’s (not big tippers). She had been saving 10% and she needed to do that so she could have money when she could no longer work. She decided to trust the Lord’s instruction and start tithing 10%. After a year had passed... she told me of how last year she had started to tithe 10% every week the Lord enabled her to save more in that one year than any other year in her life. “Pastor, it really works!!!” She trusted God who supplies and even multiplies our seed; He is the God who increases the store!

You will be made rich in every way... – 2 Corinthians 9:11a

The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it. – Proverbs 10:22

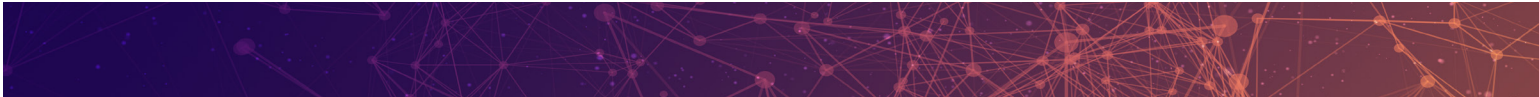
As we give the Lord releases his many blessings upon our lives. Once a teacher asked a boy, “If you had \$2 and asked your Dad for \$4 how much money would you have?”

The boy said, “\$2”.... “Son, you don’t know your math.” ... “Teacher, you don’t know my father.”

When people wonder if the Lord is able to bring success to their lives... love, joy, peace, blessings... I can only say, “You don’t know my Father.”

THE RESULT:

What is the result he desires? Why does the Lord so beautifully reward the giver? So that...our giving results in thanksgiving and praise to God... your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. – 2 Corinthians 9:11



Acts of generosity last forever! Like the lady with the Alabaster Jar of perfume that was broken and spilled out as a gift to Jesus. The Lord said that the story would never be forgotten.

When our son “Dig” was 9 he was collecting the special edition quarters. He had the collector’s album and each one was placed in its position, there were just a few still missing.

At that time, I came back from a mission trip to Bolivia. I was showing pictures of the trip. One particular picture greatly disturbed Dig. It was a picture of a pastor in his office, a dirt floor, his desk was a weathered board sitting across two beat up crates. Dig asked where Pastor Hugo’s candy dish was. He was used to the beautiful desk in my office, with a dish full of candy. He was broken hearted by Pastor Hugo’s desk and set out on a campaign to raise money. He figured out it would be cheaper to have a desk made in Bolivia than to ship one from here. It was priced out at \$325. He committed his own quarter collection – about \$10...then asked others to donate quarters, at the church, through the neighborhood, down at his school – over the next several weeks – his collection grew from \$10 to \$100 to \$200. Within 6 weeks he reached \$325. Enough to have a desk built in Bolivia for Pastor Hugo!

There many things Dig received throughout his life...but the memory that is strongest is when he gave – that’s what resulted in thanksgiving to God.

APPLICATION:

This is our chance to be part of a celebration.

We cannot do what God does

God will not do what we can do!

This is something we can do today!

Will you make this your prayer...

LORD, WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE THROUGH ME TO REACH ALL PEOPLE WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS?

