

## Topic 27: Spiritual of Giving *Understanding Generosity and Stewardship*

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” – 2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

**HOW WE HANDLE MONEY SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT WHO WE REALLY BELIEVE.**



Just the mention of this topic leaves most people feeling uncomfortable or discouraged.

This is a lesson about money, and about cultivating the wise and joyous habit of being generous and making a difference with our finances.

More likely, as with most people, money is an ongoing stressor in your life. Whether it' saving, spending, investing, borrowing, or giving,

1. Why do you think that the subject of money causes such tension within people? Why such awkwardness between individuals?

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In light of 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 I want to urge everyone to do three things:

- to give generously;
- to give willingly; and
- to give cheerfully.

**<sup>6</sup> But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**

Paul used a **farming** analogy to explain biblical giving. This individual plants very **few** seeds. Miserly sowing produces a **meager** harvest. **He who sows bountifully (literally with blessings)**

Liberal sowing is fundamental to the **size** of the crop to come. Liberal sowing is to give from the principle of grace. Grace-giving rests on the attitude of the giver **will also reap bountifully** [*with blessing*].



Christians harvest blessing in proportion to what we give (Luke 6:38). Generous sowing produces spiritual **enrichment** in one's own life. To give to the Lord is an investment in a person's spiritual blessing.



We reap what we sow. Reaping is commensurate with sowing (Galatians 6:7-10). The principle is not to give to get, yet God gives bountifully to those who sow bountifully. The more we proportionally give, the more God's work will be done; that is a blessing.

This does not imply that the more money we give, the more money we will receive in return. If we contribute in order to gain material wealth, we will reap spiritual poverty. However, God will reward generosity with sufficient material sustenance, but not necessarily affluence (Proverbs 19:17; 28:27; Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38). The more generous we are, the more generous God is with us. This will make it possible to continue one's generosity.

**Looking at the Text**  
**Three Encouraging Truths About Money**

**#1. God is generous with his children; he promises to provide for *all* of our needs.**

Look up and read these verses: Psalm 145:16; Matthew 7:11; and Philippians 4:19. What strikes you most about these statements and promises?

2. What hits you most about these statements and promises?

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**#2. God gives generously to his people so that we can give generously to others.**

This principle goes all the way back to the calling of Abraham. God promised to bless him, and then said "and you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2). In other words, don't hoard — give! Be a conduit of God's blessings, not a black hole.

**#3. God says he blesses the generous.**

In the 2 Corinthians passage God said that those who sow generously by giving generously to the work of God will:

- Have what they need to live (v. 8)
- See increasing fruit from their sacrificial contributions (vss. 8, 11)
- *Receive* more in order to be able to *give* more (v. 11)

The Lord calls his followers to selflessly and generously share with others the blessings that he has placed in their care. Disciples invest in eternal causes for the glory of God, for the good of others, and for their own spiritual well-being.

3. What do all this make you think about your giving?

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3. What do all this make you think about standard of giving in your family and church?

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