



**Part 12:
God's Promise to
Provide
2 Cor. 8:1-9:15**

Key Truth: I can't afford _____ to give to God!

Here's Why:

1. Giving _____ surprising _____ from God
"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 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. As it is written: 'He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Cor. 9:7-11

Where should I give my money?

- Give to the _____ of God's heart
"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," Matt. 28:19
- *"Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Luke 12:33-34*

How much should I give away?

- *"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." 2Cor. 9:6*
- Start _____
- Give out of _____ not _____

2. Giving _____ the glory and goodness of _____
This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 2Cor. 9:14

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

This week's memory verse: *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2Cor. 9:7*

Monday

Read 2 Cor. 9:6-15. Look back over your notes from last weekend. What truth from these verses stands out most to you?

How would you describe your generosity - planned, stingy, to certain causes or people, to fault?

When is it easy for your to be generous? When is it difficult? Why the difference?

What changes do you believe God wants you to make in your giving as a result of studying this passage?

Thank God today for lavishing His riches on you. Ask God to soften your heart towards Him and what He wants to teach you this week about generosity. Pray that your generosity will cause others to overflow with gratefulness to God.

Tuesday

Read Prov. 11:25, 22:9, 1 Tim. 6:17-19, Heb. 13:15-16. Write down three truths about generosity you learn from these verses:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Think about the last week of your life. How often did you think about generosity or giving?

Recall a time when you were on the receiving end of someone's generosity. What were the circumstances? How did their generosity impact you? How did it impact your relationship with God?

Recall a time when you were generous to someone. How did that impact you and your relationship with God?

Thank God today for the people who have been generous with you. Thank Him for His love and mercy. Pray that you will be a person known for a generous spirit.

Wednesday

Read 2 Cor. 8:1-15. Describe the church at Macedonia's giving. What application do you see for your life.

What challenges you in the Apostle Paul's discussion about generosity?

How does Christ's example motivate you to give?

In what ways besides giving money can you be generous to others in the name of Christ today?

Thank God today for giving His all to you. Thank Him for the Bible and the opportunity to learn from the example of others. Ask Him to mold your heart to more and more match His.

Thursday

Read 2 Cor. 8:16-9:5. Why was Titus traveling to Corinth?

Why did Paul make the effort to do what was right in the eyes of others when it came to money? (See 2 Cor. 8:20-21)

How have you ever noticed a grudging attitude when you give to the Lord?

What can you do this week to foster a willing attitude when you give?

Thank God today for the many things He has blessed with you with. Thank Him for the opportunities to share your blessings with others. Pray that your life and generosity will make an eternal impact on those around you.

Friday

Read 2 Cor. 9:6-15. Who is the most generous person you know? Why do you think so?

Reread verse 7. What images come to mind when you think of a cheerful giver? Do any of them remind you of yourself?

How have you seen God's provision for your needs when you've been generous to others?

According to verse 11, what results from a Christian's generosity?

What will you do to set an example of giving?

Thank God today for the opportunity to be used by Him for an eternal impact. Thank Him for the practical teaching of the Bible. Ask Him to soften your heart and cultivate a joyful generosity in you.

Saturday

Please finish any devotions you may have missed and review the memory verse for the week. How have you learned the truth "I can't afford not to give to God" in your life this week? Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that we honor God and reach Santa Cruz County with God's amazing grace!