

TITLE: MULTIPLICATION THROUGH GENEROSITY

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Big Idea: Generosity starts with what we have in our hearts, not what we have in the bank.

INTRODUCTION:

- To the generous, expect multiplication in this year of Expansion & Increase, [Prov. 11:25]
- In 2 Corinthians, Paul gave a theology lesson on giving and generosity in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. He wanted their generosity to be genuine and from the heart, not out of obligation.
- The amount of money does not measure generosity; the amount of love measures it.
- Giving is an investment for our eternal security.

Multiplication Through Generosity

I. Generous Living Starts with a Grateful Heart. [2 Cor. 9:7]

- That is the first step: being grateful for what we have, realizing that to those given much, much is expected, and beginning to understand that we are not the owners but mere stewards of what we have.
- In truth, generosity is a Christian response to the grace of God.
- Let's break down 2 Cor. 9:7.
Giving is individual. *"Each one"*
Giving is a personal decision. *"what you have decided"*
Giving is a heart issue. *"in your heart."*
- Giving is not reluctantly nor by compulsion. *"not reluctantly or under compulsion."*
- Q: Why does God love when we give? Because we are saying to Him, "I believe you, and I trust you!"

II. Generous Living Shows an Obedient Heart. [8-9]

- "Giving is not a matter of can and can't, but will or won't."—Unknown
- The Lord wants us to give our money and be generous with it because it's spiritually good for us to be generous
- When I read the passages: Prov. 3:9-10; Mal. 3:10; or Luke 6:38
- God wants us to test this principle of giving to see if it will be operative in our own life.
- What do you mean by OBEDIENCE?
 - In simple terms, it means hearing the word of God and acting on it.

- o It is when we completely surrender to His authority and base our decisions and actions on His Word.

III. Generous Living Shines as a Christ-like Heart. [2 Cor. 9: 10-11]

A. Good works give God glory. [Matthew 5:16]

- Our generosity provides the opportunity to reach the lost with the message of the Gospel, and it also indicates that God's grace has been active in our lives.

B. We must realize that, to a great extent, the only thing some people see of Christianity is our lives.

C. Our giving reflects a lot about us.

- Christian giving is a mark of spiritual maturity.
- It is a testimony of our faith in the Word of God and the God of the Word.
- Our generosity in giving demonstrates God's character and response to what He has done for us.
- Money is to be a *resource*, but it is not to be *my Source*.

CHALLENGE: Generosity starts with what we have in our hearts, not what we have in the bank. God loves a cheerful giver! That means the Lord gets excited about us when we get excited about giving. *Would you check your heart? Would you ensure that your heart is right before God whatever you give?*

DISCUSSION:

- What kind of hearts does generously living project? Mention each one and share your thoughts on each.
- Do you enjoy giving to the Lord and helping others? Why or why not?
- What area in your heart needs improvement to experience multiplication through generosity?