

**“ALL THAT GENEROSITY
PRODUCES”**

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

INTRODUCTION

In the collection for the church in Jerusalem, the process took about 5 years. Paul had bragged about the Corinthians to the Macedonians just as he bragged about the Macedonians to the Corinthians. Now the big question will be, “What good will this gift do”?

SOWING AND REAPING

To illustrate the principles of giving, Paul used agriculture as an example. Theologians use the term “the law of quantity”. The more seed planted, the larger the crop. False teachers abuse this example to talk about “seed faith offerings”, “100 fold returns”. They press the point that the more faith you have, the more money you give, the more money you get in return. Some say, “Solve your money needs with money seeds”. (Many of those ministries don’t appear to follow their own teachings when looking for donations, however.)

There is a broader application in the spiritual realm. In **Galatians 6:8**, it says that if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap everlasting life. In sowing and reaping the crop does take *time*. Money that is given the right way is never a waste. It’s an investment in spiritual well-being.

HOW DO WE GIVE?

Paul describes 3 types of givers: sad, mad and glad givers. In **1 Corinthians 9:10**, it seems that the attitude of the farmer affects the crop. It’s not just the giving that pleases God, it is *how* it is given. We should be glad givers who work in hope! **Verses 8 and 9** describe God’s sufficiency for us in all aspects of life, spiritual and physical. Cf. **Psalm 112:9**. He can multiply all that we have, as He did with the loaves and the fish. This produces an experience of God’s provision in our lives that may not seem to add up on paper!

God provides the seed that we plant, and can multiply it as well. In **Luke 12** the rich fool was stingy toward God. He wanted all his goods for himself. We should give, because all we have was given to us! Notice that in **verse 10** our increase is spiritual!

WHY GIVE?

Why does God require us to give? The scriptures warn us numerous times about covetousness. We are overloaded with this temptation. Commercials and ads target us even at a very early age and encourage covetousness. This can be a great hindrance in growth in our spiritual lives.

There are many ways to give to God’s work. Giving could be towards a School of Ministry student or sponsoring a student in the Christian school. Another way is to underwrite a radio program on the station. These are all spiritual investments.

CONSIDER

Many things happen when we give to the Lord. It pleases God. It supplies the needs of others. We experience His faithfulness. It causes us to be thankful. We grow spiritually. God gets the glory for all of this! His grace is certainly an indescribable gift!

PRAY.....

- * That the Lord would restore lives through the Veterans Day Assembly.
- * That our evening of Thanksgiving in November would be a true time of worship for our body.