



Community Group Study: God is the Most Cheerful Giver
The Path to Joy – Part 7 | 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 | week of April 2

GETTING STARTED

- With what are you generous: Your time? Money? Talents? Stuff? With what are you stingy?

CONTEXT

- Read the following passages: Acts 11:27-30; 1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8:1-7; 9:1-5. From them, what do we learn about the collection Paul is urging the Corinthians to complete?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.

OBSERVATION

- In our passage, Paul is developing a Christian theology of generosity. Together, look at each verse and determine if that verse is describing 1) a motivation for generosity; 2) a characteristic of generosity; or 3) a result of generosity.

MEANING

- By the “sowing and reaping” imagery is Paul suggesting that if one gives \$100 she will receive \$1,000 back from the Lord? If not, then what *is* Paul suggesting?
- “God loves a cheerful giver” (9:7) - because God himself is the most cheerful giver. How does our passage tie our generosity to the generosity of God through the gospel?

APPLICATION

- What have you reaped by being generous to others? How has generosity helped you to mature in your faith?
- How can the results of generosity described in this passage enable you to be more generous? To persevere in your work?
- How do generosity and financial planning/responsibility fit together?
- What obstacles do you see in your life to greater expressions of generosity?

NEXT STEPS

- Memorize/meditate upon 2 Corinthians 8:9.
- Write a prayer confessing to God your unbelief and/or other heart issues that keep you from living more generously, or giving more cheerfully and sacrificially.