

2 CORINTHIANS 9 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OUR GIVING MATTERS - ([SERMON MP3](#))

Paul is writing to the Corinthian church to encourage them in their giving. They had started out with great zeal (9:2) and desire (8:10) to participate in collecting for the saints in Jerusalem, but following through on their goals may have been proving difficult.

- *Read 2 Cor. 8:10-12. How do the words “desiring” and “completing” correlate with one another? What about the words “readiness” and “acceptable”?*
- *Have you ever started out a task with great zeal and enthusiasm only to find yourself struggling to find the ambition to finish? Think about a time and be ready to share with your group.*
- *What factors contribute to waning motivation in our giving? How can (2 Cor. 8:1-5) encourage us to be generous in the midst of difficult circumstances?*

God dispenses His grace abundantly to the giver. We often think that after we have given something away, there will be so much less for ourselves. Our thought process says that as we give, we lose. As we dispense our resources to the benefit of others, we gather nothing in return. But God does promise a generous crop to those who sow generously (2 Cor. 9:6), and to enrich those who are generous (2 Cor. 9:11).

- *Is it hard to agree with the statement that God generously blesses those who give generously? Why or why not?*
- *What must be the driving motivation for our giving? Look at (2 Cor. 9:8b; 11-12) for help in discovering that the goal is not personal prosperity.*

The way we give dictates the disposition God has toward our benevolence. Verse 7 of our passage tells both the way to give, and the way not to give.

- *Good giving: “Each one must give as he has _____”*
- *“God loves a _____ giver.*
- *Wrong giving: “Not _____ or under _____”*
- *Can God use gifts given under compulsion or reluctance? Why is our attitude and decisiveness important? Look at (Luke 21:1-4; 2 Cor. 8:6-8) for help.*

