2 CORINTHIANS 9 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OUR GVING 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 "desiri "readiness" and "acceptable"?	ring" and "completing" correlate with one another? What about the words	s
•	Have you ever started out a task with great zeal Think about a time and be ready to share with y	al and enthusiasm only to find yourself struggling to find the ambition to fi your group.	inish?
	What factors contribute to waning motivation in difficult circumstances?	n our giving? How can (2 Cor. 8:1-5) encourage us to be generous in the	midst of
for ours	elves. Our thought process says that as we give	Te often think that after we have given something away, there will be so me, we lose. As we dispense our resources to the benefit of others, we gat op to those who sow generously (2 Cor. 9:6), and to enrich those who are	:her
•	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 given personal prosperity.	ving? Look at (2 Cor. 9:8b; 11-12) for help in discovering that the goal is n	not
	y we give dictates the disposition God has tove to give.	ward our benevolence. Verse 7 of our passage tells both the way to give	, and the
•	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 re	reluctance? Why is our attitude and decisiveness important? Look at (Luk	ke 21:1-4;

2 Cor. 8:6-8) for help.

Read her p	l th	e story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath in (1 Kings 17:8-16). This woman needed to to try. In return, God promised that he would continue to supply her with resources to live.	rust the word of God and give out of
		Can you think of any other passages that talk about God supplying all that we need for life?	
		How can you respond when it feels like your giving is only leaving you empty and there is no "for encouragement?	divine refill"? What can you look to
The d	che	erful giver is one who seeks to bring praise and thanksgiving to God.	
		Whose approval do you seek when you give? Do you seek the approval of others? God? Your	self?
(The passage says that the recipients of the gifts would praise God for two reasons. What are t	they (vs. 13)?
(Are financial gifts the only way we can give to others in a way that brings praise to God? Look 2:12).	up (Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Peter
		Who do you give thanks to when you receive gifts from others?	PRAYER REQUESTS
		sus, there was a great exchange of wealth when he came to earth for our sakes. Cor. 8:9).	
		Are you willing to sacrifice earthly possessions for heavenly gain? Are you holding loosely to the things of this world so that others may experience the wealth that is found in Christ?	
(When we say that we should give because Jesus gave to us, we must also consider that we could never give in the same capacity as He has given. Take some time to meditate on how much Jesus has given to us. Such pondering should lead us to say "Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!"	