CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

2 Corinthians Chapter 9 —
The Cheerful Giver

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

2 Corinthians Chapter 9 continues the subject of Chapter 8.

Paul is still speaking about the offering for the poor believers in Jerusalem.

The Corinthians had promised to give.

A year earlier, they had been eager.

Paul had even boasted about them to the churches in Macedonia.

Their zeal had stirred others to give.

But now Paul wants to be sure their gift is ready.

So he sends brothers ahead to help them prepare.

He does not want the offering to be rushed or pressured.

He wants it to be a gift of generosity, not grudging obligation.

Then Paul teaches a beautiful principle.

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

Giving is like planting seed.

God is the One who gives the seed, grows the harvest, and supplies everything we need.

Then comes one of the best-known verses on giving in the Bible.

"God loves a cheerful giver."

Paul ends by showing where generosity leads.

Needs are met.

Thanks rise to God.

Believers in different places are joined together in love and prayer.

And every gift points back to the greatest gift of all.

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"

The chapter moves through three movements:

- Preparing the Offering in Advance (verses 1–5).
- The Principle of Sowing and Reaping (verses 6–9).

- God Supplies and Multiplies the Harvest (verses 10–15).

The central truth of 2 Corinthians 9 is:

God loves a cheerful giver, supplies everything His people need to be generous, multiplies what they sow for His glory, and uses their giving to meet needs, unite believers, and fill the world with thanksgiving for His indescribable gift.

I. THE MINISTRY TO THE SAINTS

2 Corinthians 9:1 — No Need to Write

"As for the ministry to the saints, it is unnecessary for me to write to you."

Paul has just spent a whole chapter on giving.

Now he says it is unnecessary to write about it.

Why?

Because the Corinthians already knew about the offering.

They had already agreed to help.

Paul was being gracious.

He was not lecturing them as if they knew nothing.

"The ministry to the saints."

Giving is called a **ministry**.

It is a way of serving God's people.

The **saints** here are the poor believers in Jerusalem.

Cross References

Romans 15:25

> But right now I am going to Jerusalem to help God's people there.

1 Corinthians 16:1

> About the gift you are collecting for God's people: do what I told the churches in Galatia to do.

Acts 11:29

> The followers of Jesus each decided to send what they could to help the believers living in Judea.

Spiritual Principle

Giving to meet the needs of God's people is a true ministry.

Application

Do you see your giving as a way of serving God's people?

II. ZEAL THAT STIRS OTHERS

2 Corinthians 9:2 — Achaia Was Ready

“For I know your eagerness to help, and I boast about you to the Macedonians, saying that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up most of them.”

“I know your eagerness to help.”

Paul knew their hearts were willing.

“I boast about you to the Macedonians.”

Paul had told the Macedonians how eager the Corinthians were.

Achaia was the region where Corinth was located.

“Your zeal has stirred up most of them.”

The Corinthians' eagerness had inspired others.

Notice the interesting picture.

In Chapter 8, Paul used the Macedonians to encourage the Corinthians.

Here, he says the Corinthians had first encouraged the Macedonians.

Each church inspired the other.

That is how God's people should work together.

Cross References

Romans 15:26

> The churches in Macedonia and Achaia were happy to give an offering for the poor believers in Jerusalem.

2 Corinthians 8:10

> It is best for you to finish what you began last year, because you were the first both to give and to want to give.

Proverbs 27:17

> Just as one piece of iron sharpens another, one friend helps make another better.

Spiritual Principle

One believer's eager heart can stir many others to serve.

Key Truth

Your example of generosity may encourage people you never meet.

III. READY, JUST AS I SAID

2 Corinthians 9:3 — Boasting Not Empty

“Yet I have sent the brothers so that our boasting about you in this matter may not prove empty, but that you may be ready, just as I said.”

“I have sent the brothers.”

These are Titus and the two brothers from Chapter 8.

“So that our boasting about you in this matter may not prove empty.”

Paul had spoken highly of them.

He did not want his words to turn out to be hollow.

“But that you may be ready, just as I said.”

Paul wanted them prepared.

He believed in them.

But he also knew that good intentions can slip away.

So he sent help to make sure they followed through.

Cross References

Philippians 2:16

> Hold on firmly to the message of life. Then I can be proud on the day Christ returns that my work and effort were not wasted.

Galatians 2:2

> I explained in private the gospel I preach to the Gentiles, to make sure that my work, past and present, was not for nothing.

1 Thessalonians 3:5

> When I could not wait any longer, I sent Timothy to find out about your faith. I was afraid the tempter had tested you and all our work had been for nothing.

Spiritual Principle

Good intentions need practical help to become finished work.

Application

Who could help you follow through on what you promised God?

IV. AVOIDING SHAME

2 Corinthians 9:4 — If You Are Unprepared

“For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to mention you—would be ashamed of having been so confident.”

Paul imagines a possible problem.

He might bring Macedonian believers with him to Corinth.

What if the Corinthians were not ready?

“We—not to mention you—would be ashamed.”

Paul would be embarrassed.

The Corinthians would be embarrassed even more.

Paul says this gently.

He is not threatening them.

He is helping them see why preparation matters.

Cross References

Luke 14:28

> If you want to build a tower, you first sit down and figure out how much it will cost, to see whether you have enough to finish it.

Luke 14:29

> Otherwise, you might lay the foundation and not be able to finish, and everyone who sees it will laugh at you.

1 John 2:28

> Dear children, stay close to Christ. Then when He comes, we will be confident and not ashamed to stand before Him.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful preparation keeps our promises from becoming a source of shame.

Key Truth

What we promise publicly, we should be ready to complete.

V. GENEROSITY, NOT OBLIGATION

2 Corinthians 9:5 — Arranged in Advance

“Therefore I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go ahead to you and arrange in advance the generous gift you promised, so that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as grudging obligation.”

“Go ahead to you and arrange in advance.”

Paul wanted the gift gathered before he arrived.

He did not want a last-minute collection.

A rushed collection could feel like pressure.

“The generous gift you promised.”

The Corinthians had made a promise.

“As a matter of generosity and not as grudging obligation.”

This is the key.

Paul did not want them to give because they were cornered.

He wanted the gift to come from a generous heart.

The word for **grudging obligation** carries the idea of something squeezed out of someone.

God does not want gifts that are squeezed out.

Cross References

Exodus 25:2

> Tell the people of Israel to bring Me an offering. Accept it from each person whose heart moves them to give.

Deuteronomy 16:17

> Every one of you must bring a gift as you are able, matching the blessing the Lord your God has given you.

1 Chronicles 29:5

> Now, who will gladly give himself to the Lord today?

Spiritual Principle

Planned giving protects the heart from pressure and makes room for generosity.

Application

Do you plan your giving, or give only when pressured?

VI. SOWING AND REAPING

2 Corinthians 9:6 — Sparingly or Bountifully

“But this I say: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

Paul uses a picture every farmer understands.

A farmer who plants a few seeds gets a small harvest.

A farmer who plants many seeds gets a large harvest.

“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly.”

Holding back leads to a small harvest.

“Whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

Generous sowing leads to a generous harvest.

What does the harvest include?

The rest of the chapter answers.

God supplies what we need.

He enlarges the harvest of righteousness.

He produces thanksgiving and praise.

Bible teachers warn against turning this verse into a promise that giving will always make us wealthy.

The harvest God gives may be material, spiritual, or eternal.

The point is that God never lets generous giving go to waste.

Cross References

Proverbs 11:24

> One person gives freely and still gets richer. Another holds back what he should give and ends up poor.

Proverbs 22:9

> A generous person will be blessed, because he shares his food with the poor.

Galatians 6:9

> Do not grow tired of doing good. If we keep at it, we will gather a harvest when the time is right.

Spiritual Principle

God never wastes what is sown generously for Him.

Key Truth

The harvest belongs to God, but the sowing is up to us.

VII. THE CHEERFUL GIVER

2 Corinthians 9:7 — God Loves a Cheerful Giver

“Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

This is one of the most loved verses about giving.

“Each person.”

Giving is personal.

Every believer is included.

“Should give what he has decided in his heart to give.”

Giving should be thought through.

It is decided ahead of time, before God.

It comes from the heart.

“Not reluctantly.”

Not with sadness, as if losing something.

“Or under compulsion.”

Not because of pressure or guilt.

“For God loves a cheerful giver.”

The word **cheerful** describes glad, joyful giving.

God does not need our money.

He looks for a joyful heart.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 15:10

> Give to the poor freely and do not feel bad about it. Because of this, the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you do.

1 Chronicles 29:9

> The people celebrated because their leaders gave so willingly, giving to the Lord with their whole hearts.

Romans 12:8

> If your gift is to encourage others, encourage them. If it is giving, give generously. If it is leading, lead with care. If it is showing mercy, do it gladly.

Spiritual Principle

God delights in giving that is planned in the heart and offered with joy.

Application

When you give, do you give gladly?

VIII. ALL GRACE OVERFLOWING

2 Corinthians 9:8 — Abounding in Every Good Work

"And God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

Look at how many times Paul uses the word **all**.

- All grace.
- All things.
- All times.
- All that you need.
- Every good work.

"God is able."

Generosity rests on God's power, not ours.

"To make all grace overflow to you."

God's grace is not small.

It overflows.

"Having all that you need."

God promises to supply what we need, not everything we want.

“You will abound in every good work.”

God supplies us so that we can keep doing good.

His blessings flow to us so they can flow through us.

Cross References

Philippians 4:19

> My God will give you everything you need from His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:20

> God can do far more than anything we ask or even imagine, by His power that is at work in us.

2 Peter 1:3

> By His divine power, God has given us everything we need to live a godly life, through knowing Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.

Spiritual Principle

God gives us enough so that we can keep giving.

Key Truth

We are not reservoirs that store up blessings, but channels that pass them on.

IX. RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT ENDURES

2 Corinthians 9:9 — Given to the Poor

“As it is written: “He has scattered abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.””

Paul quotes Psalm 112.

That psalm describes the person who fears the Lord.

“He has scattered abroad.”

Like a farmer scattering seed, the godly person spreads his gifts widely.

“He has given to the poor.”

His generosity reaches people in need.

“His righteousness endures forever.”

Money spent on ourselves is soon gone.

But righteous acts of generosity have lasting value before God.

Cross References

Psalm 112:9

> He gives freely to the poor. His right living will last forever, and he will be honored.

Psalm 112:3

> His house will have plenty, and his right living will never be forgotten.

Proverbs 19:17

> When you are kind to the poor, it is like lending to the Lord, and He will pay you back for what you did.

Spiritual Principle

Generosity to the poor has lasting value in God's eyes.

Application

Who in need could you help this week?

X. SEED FOR THE SOWER

2 Corinthians 9:10 — Multiplying the Harvest

“Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.”

Paul draws from Isaiah 55.

“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food.”

God gives both.

Seed to plant, and bread to eat.

Some of what He gives is for our needs.

Some is to be sown for others.

“Will also supply and multiply your seed for sowing.”

God provides more seed for those who sow it.

“And increase the harvest of your righteousness.”

The harvest is not only material.

It is a harvest of righteousness.

God grows good character and good works in the giver.

Cross References

Isaiah 55:10

> Rain and snow fall from the sky and do not go back until they water the earth, making plants grow and giving seed to the farmer and bread to eat.

Hosea 10:12

> Plant right living for yourselves, and you will harvest faithful love. Break up your hard ground, because it is time to seek the Lord until He comes and pours down righteousness on you.

Genesis 8:22

> As long as the earth lasts, there will always be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.

Spiritual Principle

God supplies both what we need and what we are meant to share.

Key Truth

God trusts more seed to those who sow it.

XI. ENRICHED TO BE GENEROUS

2 Corinthians 9:11 — Resulting in Thanksgiving

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

“You will be enriched in every way.”

God enriches His people.

“So that you can be generous on every occasion.”

Here is the purpose.

God does not enrich us so we can hoard.

He enriches us so we can give.

“Through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

Paul would carry their gift to Jerusalem.

When the believers there received it, they would thank God.

Giving does not end with the gift.

It ends with worship.

Cross References

1 Timothy 6:18

> Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share.

2 Corinthians 4:15

> All this is for your good, so that as God's grace reaches more and more people, more and more thanks will rise to the glory of God.

Psalm 50:14

> Offer God your thanks as a sacrifice, and keep the promises you made to the Most High.

Spiritual Principle

God blesses us so that we can bless others and lead them to thank Him.

Application

What is God's purpose for the resources He has given you?

XII. OVERFLOWING THANKS

2 Corinthians 9:12 — More Than Meeting Needs

“For this ministry of service not only meets the needs of the saints, but also overflows in many expressions of thanks to God.”

Paul shows two results of their giving.

“Not only meets the needs of the saints.”

First, it would meet real physical needs.

Hungry people would be fed.

“But also overflows in many expressions of thanks to God.”

Second, it would cause many people to thank God.

Giving is both practical and spiritual.

It feeds bodies.

And it fills hearts with praise.

Cross References

Philippians 4:18

> I have received everything you sent, and I have more than enough. Your gifts are like a sweet-smelling offering, a sacrifice that pleases God.

Romans 15:27

> They were happy to do it, and they really owe it to them. The Gentiles shared in the Jewish believers' spiritual blessings, so they should share their material blessings with them.

Acts 4:34

> None of them went without, because those who owned land or houses sold them and brought the money.

Spiritual Principle

Generous giving meets human needs and multiplies praise to God.

Key Truth

Every gift given in Christ's name has two harvests: a need met and a God praised.

XIII. GLORIFYING GOD

2 Corinthians 9:13 — Obedience to the Gospel

“Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.”

“Because of the proof given by this ministry.”

The gift would prove something.

It would show that the Corinthians' faith was real.

“They will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ.”

The Jewish believers might have wondered about these Gentile Christians.

Were they truly following Christ?

Their gift would answer the question.

Their actions matched what they said they believed.

“And for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.”

Their generosity would reach beyond Jerusalem.

It would be part of their way of life.

Cross References

Matthew 5:16

> In the same way, let your light shine for people to see, so that they see the good you do and praise your Father in heaven.

Galatians 6:10

> So whenever we have the chance, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those in the family of faith.

1 Peter 2:12

> Live good lives among those who do not know God. Then, even if they speak against you, they will see the good things you do and honor God on the day He comes.

Spiritual Principle

Generosity is visible proof that our faith in the gospel is real.

Application

Does your giving show that you believe the gospel?

XIV. PRAYING AND LONGING

2 Corinthians 9:14 — The Surpassing Grace of God

“And in their prayers for you, they long for you because of the surpassing grace of God upon you.”

Here is another beautiful result.

“In their prayers for you.”

The believers in Jerusalem would pray for the Corinthians.

“They long for you.”

They would grow to love them.

Jewish and Gentile believers who had never met would be joined in affection.

“Because of the surpassing grace of God upon you.”

They would see God's grace at work in Corinth.

Giving builds bridges between believers.

It turns strangers into family.

Cross References

Philippians 1:8

> God knows how much I long for all of you with the tender love of Christ Jesus.

Romans 1:9

> God, whom I serve with my whole heart by preaching the good news about His Son, knows that I always remember you in my prayers.

Colossians 1:9

> Since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding the Spirit gives.

Spiritual Principle

Generosity binds believers together in love and prayer.

Key Truth

Giving turns distant believers into praying family.

XV. GOD'S INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

2 Corinthians 9:15 — Thanks Be to God

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

Paul ends two chapters on giving with a burst of praise.

“Thanks be to God.”

All giving begins and ends with God.

“For His indescribable gift!”

What is this gift?

Most Bible students understand it as Jesus Christ Himself.

God gave His Son.

He gave salvation, forgiveness, and eternal life.

Some also include all the grace that flows from that gift, including the grace of generosity.

Either way, it all comes from Christ.

Indescribable means it cannot be fully put into words.

No matter how much we give, we can never match what God has given us.

Our giving is simply a response to His.

Cross References

James 1:17

> All the good things we receive come down from heaven, from the Father who made the lights in the sky. Unlike shifting shadows, He never changes.

John 3:16

> God's love for the world was so great that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who puts their trust in Him will not be lost, but will live forever.

Romans 8:32

> God did not hold back even His own Son but gave Him up for all of us. So surely He will also freely give us everything else with Him.

Spiritual Principle

All our giving flows from God's indescribable gift of Jesus Christ.

Key Truth

We give because God first gave.

XVI. SIX GREAT LESSONS FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 9

1. Generosity Is to Be Intentional, Not Reluctant

“Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give.”

Principle:

Giving must come from the heart, not from pressure.

2. God Blesses Cheerful Giving

“God loves a cheerful giver.”

Principle:

He multiplies both resources and spiritual fruit when believers give with joy.

3. Sowing and Reaping Is a Kingdom Principle

“Whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

Principle:

The measure we use in giving reflects the measure we will reap in blessing.

4. Giving Glorifies God

“They will glorify God for your obedience.”

Principle:

When needs are met through generosity, thanksgiving and praise overflow to Him.

5. Generosity Strengthens Unity

“In their prayers for you, they long for you.”

Principle:

Giving connects believers across churches, cultures, and regions.

6. Christ Is God's Indescribable Gift

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

Principle:

Every act of giving flows from the ultimate gift of Jesus, who gave Himself for us.

XVII. THE CHEERFUL GIVER

Verse 7 describes the kind of giver God loves.

Personal

“Each person.”

Planned

“What he has decided.”

From the Heart

“In his heart.”

Not Reluctant

Not sad or sorry to let go.

Not Forced

“Not under compulsion.”

Joyful

“A cheerful giver.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God is not looking for the biggest giver, but the gladdest one.

XVIII. THE HARVEST OF GENEROSITY

Verses 6–15 show what God grows from generous sowing.

For the Giver

- All grace overflowing.
- Everything needed.
- More seed to sow.
- A harvest of righteousness.
- Enrichment for more generosity.

For Those Who Receive

- Needs are met.
- Hearts are filled with thanks.
- Prayer for the givers.
- Love for believers they have never met.

For God

- Thanksgiving.
- Glory.
- Praise for His grace.

A Word of Balance

God promises to supply what we need for every good work.

He does not promise that giving is a way to get rich.

The harvest may be in this life, in our character, or in eternity.

Key Truth

Generous sowing always produces a harvest, because God Himself is the One who gives the growth.

XIX. THE CHAIN OF GENEROSITY

This chapter shows how giving moves from God and back to God.

1. God Gives

“He who supplies seed to the sower.”

2. Believers Give

“Your generosity.”

3. Needs Are Met

“Meets the needs of the saints.”

4. Thanks Rise to God

“Many expressions of thanks to God.”

5. Believers Are United

“They long for you.”

6. God Is Glorified

“They will glorify God.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Every gift starts with God and, when given rightly, ends with God's glory.

XX. WHAT 2 CORINTHIANS 9 TEACHES ABOUT GOD

He Loves Cheerful Givers

“God loves a cheerful giver.”

He Is Able

“God is able to make all grace overflow to you.”

He Supplies

“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food.”

He Multiplies

“Will also supply and multiply your seed for sowing.”

He Grows Righteousness

“Increase the harvest of your righteousness.”

He Receives Thanks and Glory

“Overflows in many expressions of thanks to God.”

He Gave the Greatest Gift

“His indescribable gift.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who gave His Son is the God who supplies everything we need to give.

XXI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why did Paul say it was unnecessary to write about the offering?

The Corinthians already knew about it and had already agreed to help.

Question 2

How had the Corinthians encouraged the Macedonians?

Their early eagerness to give stirred up most of the Macedonians to give too.

Question 3

Why did Paul send the brothers ahead?

To help the Corinthians prepare their gift so it would be ready and not rushed.

Question 4

What is the difference between generosity and grudging obligation?

Generosity is given freely from the heart.

Grudging obligation is squeezed out by pressure.

Question 5

What does Paul mean by sowing and reaping?

Generous giving is like planting seed, and God brings a harvest from what is sown.

Question 6

Does this mean giving will always make us rich?

No.

God promises to supply what we need and to bring a harvest, but the harvest may be spiritual or eternal as well as material.

Question 7

What kind of giver does God love?

A cheerful giver who gives willingly from a heart that has decided to give.

Question 8

What does God promise in verse 8?

All grace, so that we have what we need and can abound in every good work.

Question 9

Why does God enrich His people?

So they can be generous on every occasion.

Question 10

What are the two results of the offering in verse 12?

It meets the needs of the saints, and it causes many people to thank God.

Question 11

How does giving strengthen unity between believers?

Those who receive pray for the givers and grow to love them.

Question 12

What should 2 Corinthians 9 change about the way Christians live today?

2 Corinthians 9 should cause believers to live:

- Planning their giving ahead of time.
- Giving freely, not under pressure.
- Giving cheerfully.
- Trusting God to supply what they need.
- Sowing generously for God's kingdom.
- Using their blessings to bless others.
- Building love between believers through giving.
- Thanking God for His indescribable gift.

XXII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

2 Corinthians 9 asks several important questions.

Do I Keep My Promises to Give?

Is there a commitment I have not completed?

Do I Plan My Giving?

Or do I give only when I feel pushed?

Am I a Cheerful Giver?

Do I give gladly, or with regret?

Am I Sowing Sparingly?

Am I holding back from God?

Do I Trust God to Supply?

Or does fear keep my hand closed?

Am I a Channel or a Reservoir?

Do I pass on God's blessings, or store them up?

Does My Giving Lead Others to Thank God?

Does it point people to Him rather than to me?

Do I Thank God for His Indescribable Gift?

Is my heart full of gratitude for Jesus?

XXIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The Farmer and the Seed”

A farmer holds a bag of seed.

He has a choice.

He can keep it in the barn.

It will be safe there.

But it will never grow.

Or he can scatter it in the field.

For a while, it looks like he has lost it.

It is buried in the ground.

He cannot see it.

But in time, it grows.

And the harvest is far greater than what he planted.

That is what Christian giving is like.

When we give, it may feel like we have lost something.

But we have not lost it.

We have planted it.

And God is the One who brings the harvest.

This creates a powerful principle.

What we keep for ourselves stays the same size.

What we sow for God, He multiplies.

Principle:

Do not hoard the seed God gives you; sow it gladly, and trust Him with the harvest.

XXIV. FINAL APPLICATION

2 Corinthians Chapter 9 shows the joy of generous giving.

It teaches us to plan our giving.

It teaches us to give freely, not under pressure.

It shows that generous sowing brings a generous harvest.

It reminds us that God loves a cheerful giver.

It promises that God will supply all we need.

It shows how giving brings thanks and glory to God.

And it points us to the indescribable gift of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 9 therefore reminds us:

Never give grudgingly.

Never give only under pressure.

Never forget that God is able to supply.

Never hoard what God meant you to share.

Never forget His indescribable gift.

The church does not need people who give reluctantly.

It needs:

Givers who plan from the heart.

Givers who give with joy.

Givers who trust God to supply.

And givers whose generosity fills the world with thanks to God.

The same God still calls:

Tell people that God loves a cheerful giver.

Tell people that God is able to supply every need.

Tell people that generosity brings glory to God.

Tell people about God's indescribable gift.

And as you live:

Decide in your heart.

Give with joy.

Trust God with the harvest.

Thank Him for Jesus.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for being the God who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food.

Thank You that You are able to make all grace overflow to us.

Thank You that You give us everything we need to abound in every good work.

Thank You that You love a cheerful giver.

Thank You that no gift given for You is ever wasted.

Thank You that our giving can meet needs and fill hearts with thanks to You.

Forgive us when we have given reluctantly or under pressure.

Forgive us when we have sown sparingly because of fear.

Forgive us when we have stored up what You meant us to share.

Forgive us when we have forgotten Your indescribable gift.

Help us decide in our hearts to give.

Make us cheerful givers.

Help us trust You to supply all we need.

Let our generosity lead many to thank and praise You.

Bind us together with Your people everywhere in love and prayer.

And fill our hearts with gratitude for Jesus, Your greatest gift.

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” — 2 Corinthians 9:7

Central Truth

God loves a cheerful giver, supplies everything His people need to be generous, multiplies what they sow for His glory, and uses their giving to meet needs, unite believers, and fill the world with thanksgiving for His indescribable gift.

2 Corinthians 9 in One Sentence

Paul urges the Corinthians to prepare their promised gift so it will be given freely and not grudgingly, teaches that generous sowing brings a generous harvest because God loves a cheerful giver and supplies all they need, and shows that their giving will meet needs, unite believers, and overflow in thanks to God for His indescribable gift.