

## 2 Corinthians 9

Title ideas:  
The Indescribable Gift!  
A Cheerful Giver!  
Ready, Willing and  
Generous!

## 2 Corinthians 9:1-15 – The Indescribable Gift!

Scriptures:  
Mark 6:45 - For even the  
Son of Man did not come to  
be served, but to serve, and  
to give His life a ransom for  
many.

<sup>P</sup>  
1 Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is

1248 – service,  
provision

Notes:  
Paul was not writing to them to be  
generous, but to remind them that  
they had promised to be generous  
and to encourage them to complete  
what they committed to do.

‘ministering’ – Jesus used the same  
Greek word to describe His mission  
to the world (Mark 6:45).

superfluous for me to write to you;

4053 – excessive,  
more than needed

Scriptures:

<sup>Q</sup>  
2 for I know your willingness, about which I boast

4288 - eagerness

Notes:  
‘majority’ – who is the majority?

‘stirred up the majority’ – NASB  
reads ‘stirred up most of them’

Our faith lived out inspires others to  
live out their faith more. One of the  
greatest evangelism tools is a real  
passion for God and His church.

of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready

‘Achaia’ region surrounding the city  
of Corinth. On the southern border of  
Macedonia.

<sup>Q</sup>  
a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the

2205 –  
excessive  
fervor

2042 - provoke

majority.

4119 – ‘The  
greater in number  
of two parts.

Scriptures:  
2 Corinthians 6:1 - We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

<sup>3</sup> Yet **I** have sent the brethren, lest **our** boasting of

Notes:  
'brethren' = Titus and two Macedonian men

'in vain' – same word used 2 Cor. 6:1 regarding their receiving the grace of God. Paul is tying their commitment to be generous with their faith. Their faithfulness to do what they said was proof of their faith.

**you** should be in vain in this respect, that, as **I**

said, **you** may be ready;

Scriptures:

<sup>4</sup> lest if **some** Macedonians come with **me** and find

Notes:  
Paul is trying to prevent the Corinthians and himself from being embarrassed and humiliated. Paul had boasted about the readiness of the rich Corinthians which resulted in the poor Macedonians responding with generosity. He didn't want to be embarrassed if they arrived and the Corinthians weren't ready to do what they had said they would.

**you** unprepared, **we** (not to mention **you!**) should

532 - unready

be ashamed of this confident boasting.

Scriptures:  
2 Corinthians 8:9 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore **I** thought it necessary to exhort the

Notes:  
“Mere giving itself is no sign of grace or redemption. It will save no one’s soul. The giving of the redeemed is a response to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 8:9). Those who receive such grace give.” (Hughes, 2006) page 172

brethren to go to **you** ahead of time, and prepare

4294 – make ready in advance

**your** generous gift beforehand, which *you had*

2129 -

previously promised, that it may be ready as *a*

*matter of* generosity and not as a

grudging obligation.

4124 –  
greediness,  
avarice

Scriptures:

Proverbs 11:24 -

There is one who scatters, yet increases more;

And there is one who withholds more than is right,

But it leads to poverty.

<sup>6</sup> But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also

5340 – ‘To a meager degree or in a meager manner.’

Notes:

God gives back blessings to people who generously give to bless others. It is not a one-for-one transaction. It is about the heart to bless. It is not about receiving a reward for our generosity. A heart that is openly generous to bless others is open to receive God’s abundant blessings. On the other hand, a heart closed to blessing others or stingy or seeking a reward from blessing others, is not open to receive God’s abundance.

reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will

2129 – literally ‘with blessings’

“Great generosity births exponential blessing. Here is the bottom line: We are to be generous people. What we give, though material, glows with the golden light of eternity. Generosity unleashes that light. To be generous is divine.” (Hughes, 2006) page 173

also reap bountifully.

2129 – literally ‘with blessings’

“It is a fact that those who develop the habit of generosity are blessed of God. But it is a mistake to think of these rewards or blessings as always being material.” (Chafin, 1985) page 261

Scriptures:

Deuteronomy 15:10-11 -

You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand. 11 For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, ‘You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.’

<sup>7</sup> So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart,

4255 – decide beforehand, determine

Notes:

This call to cheerful giving is ancient (Deut. 15:10-11). Had to do with the Sabbatical Year, but for New Covenant Christians it is to be a daily reality.

not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a

3077 – regret, sadness

318 - compulsion

Ebenezer Scrooge was a wealthy miser who came to realize that generosity was the right way to live. A Christian Scrooge is a contradiction of terms.

‘purposes’ – giving should be a purposeful and deliberate act.

‘cheerful’ – Greek word can be translated ‘hilarious’

cheerful giver.

2431 – cheerfully happy

1395 -

Scriptures:

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

2 Peter 1:2-4 - Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

<sup>8</sup> And God <sup>is</sup> able to make all grace abound

4052 – to make plentiful

toward you, that you, always having all

sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance

841 - adequacy

for every good work.

Notes:

“The simple truth is, God will give us what we need to give to others – we will always be rich enough to be generous.” (Hughes, 2006) page 174

If we doubt the statement above we are doubting the grace of God.

“The challenge for us is not our wealth or lack of it, but belief and obedience.” (Hughes, 2006) page 175

God established ‘good works’ for each of us (Eph. 2:10) and then is able to provide everything we need to accomplish those good works (2 Pet. 1:2-4).

Why does it say ‘God is able to make all grace abound’ rather than ‘God will make all grace abound’? This could point to the reality that our faith plays a role in our experience of the grace of God.

It is God who gives us the resources and God who gives us the grace of giving. All we supply is faith, which God also gives.

God will be a debtor to no man. If you exercise the grace of /god, the grace of giving, God will bless you accordingly, though not necessarily materially.

“God is able to make all grace abound toward you as you give of your substance to Him.” (Ironside, 1938) page 427

Scriptures:

<sup>9</sup> As it is written: “*He has dispersed abroad, He*

Psalm 112:9 -  
He has dispersed abroad,  
He has given to the poor;  
His righteousness endures forever;  
His horn will be exalted with honor.

Notes:  
Generosity is a proof of  
righteousness.

*has given to the poor; His righteousness endures*

*forever.”*

Scriptures:

Isaiah 55:10-11 -

For as the rain comes  
down, and the snow from  
heaven,

And do not return there,  
But water the earth,  
And make it bring forth  
and bud,

That it may give seed to  
the sower

And bread to the eater,  
11 So shall My word  
be that goes forth from My  
mouth;

It shall not return to Me  
void,

But it shall accomplish  
what I please,

And it shall prosper in  
the thing for which I sent it.

Mark 4:8 - But other seed  
fell on good ground and  
yielded a crop that sprang  
up, increased and produced:  
some thirtyfold, some sixty,  
and some a hundred.

Hosea 10:12 -

Sow for yourselves  
righteousness;

Reap in mercy;  
Break up your fallow  
ground,

For it is time to seek the  
LORD.

Till He comes and rains  
righteousness on you.

Matthew 6:31-34 -

“Therefore do not worry,  
saying, ‘What shall we eat?’  
or ‘What shall we drink?’ or  
‘What shall we wear?’”

32 For after all these things  
the Gentiles seek. For your  
heavenly Father knows that  
you need all these things.

33 But seek first the  
kingdom of God and His  
righteousness, and all these  
things shall be added to  
you. 34 Therefore do not  
worry about tomorrow, for  
tomorrow will worry about  
its own things. Sufficient  
for the day is its own  
trouble.

<sup>10</sup> Now may **He** who supplies seed to the sower,

2023 -

Notes:

God knows what we need.

and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed

4129 – increase,  
grow in numbers

**you** have sown and increase the fruits of **your**

righteousness,



Scriptures:

<sup>11</sup> while you are enriched in everything for all

4148 – to be made  
rich

Notes:

'enriched...for all liberality' – we are given so that we can be generous.

Our believing generosity produces thanksgiving to God from those who have benefited from our generosity.

liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us

572 - generosity

to God.

Scriptures:

<sup>12</sup> For the administration of this service not only

Notes:

supplies the needs of the saints, but also is

abounding through many thanksgivings to God,

Scriptures:

<sup>13</sup> while, through the proof of this ministry, they

1382 – evidence,  
validation

Notes:

Our believing generosity also results in glory to God.

“The Corinthians’ embrace of the gospel would be proved not only by their confession of belief but by their submission to the grace of giving and their generous contribution to the poor church in Jerusalem.” (Hughes, 2006) page 176

glorify God for the obedience of your confession

to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal

sharing with them and all men,

Scriptures:

<sup>14</sup> and by their prayer for you, who long for you

Notes:

The recipients of the grace of giving (the church in Jerusalem) would praise God for the righteousness of the Corinthians and express thankfulness to God and glorify Him because of the generosity.

Generous giving also produces a bond of affection between churches thus knitting the body of Christ more closely together.

“...what looked like money-raising project was in reality a kingdom-building event.” (Chafin, 1985) page 263

because of the exceeding grace of God in you.

“Giving blesses those who give, those who receive, and the kingdom of God.” (Chafin, 1985) page 263

Scriptures:

15 Thanks be to God for His inexpressible, unspeakable gift!

411 –  
inexpressible,  
unspeakable

Only occurrence!

Notes:

Paul concludes these two chapters with an expression of joy and awe.

The grace of God is an 'inexpressible gift' not to be earned simply received by faith. The ultimate expression of God's grace is Jesus Christ.

These two chapters are not a call to give more, but to receive more of God's grace through faith. It is a call to repentance and redemption. It is not a call to legalistic observance but to grace.