

100%

Setting Apart Our Finances for God's Purpose

WEEK 3

WARM-UP

- Tell us about some of the things you enjoy doing in your free time. Why do you like doing these things so much?
- Recall a time when a friend helped you get through a particularly difficult situation. How did it make you feel?
- What was the greatest expression of gratitude someone has shown to you? Share why you consider this a memorable experience.

WORD *⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7***

(Read also **2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-5, 8-15.**)

To help the church in Jerusalem, which was in desperate need after being plagued by famine and persecution, Paul appealed to the Corinthians to set apart a benevolence offering. He urged them to prepare it in advance and set it aside so they would have generous hearts when it was time to give. But what does it mean to have a generous heart, and why is it important? Today, we will look at how God wants us to give and what it means for us to wholeheartedly set apart our finances for generosity.

1

We are to willingly, cheerfully, and generously set aside part of our resources to help those in need.

*⁵So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction. ⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **2 CORINTHIANS 9:5-7***

God is a generous God. His heart overflows with abundance and a desire to bless His people. His grace that abounds in us empowers us to bless others generously, cheerfully, and genuinely—not out of obligation or compulsion. Even if there is no opportunity yet, we can already plan ahead and be intentional in our giving. Just like the Corinthians who were urged to prepare their offering ahead of time for those suffering in Jerusalem, we can also ready our hearts and make a habit of setting aside a portion of our resources for others. What does Proverbs 11:24 say about generosity? How have you experienced God’s generosity?

2 | Our cheerful generosity results in a bountiful harvest of righteousness: many people thanking and glorifying God.

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:10-11

(Read also **2 CORINTHIANS 9:12-15**.)

While we can never out-give God, when we use our resources to help others, it doesn't just meet their needs. It opens the door for them to acknowledge God and see His hands in their lives through the people who extend generosity to them. It draws them to God and spurs them to thank, honor, and glorify Him. This is the bountiful harvest of righteousness of those who sow: the harvest of people. God values people putting their faith in Him so much. He gives more seed to those who sow to help others. How has God used you to bless others this year? What does Psalm 112:9 say about the man who sows bountifully?

God desires to bless us and use us for His kingdom. He provides seeds for us to sow and reap abundantly. Giving becomes a joy because of His grace that allows us to be channels of blessing to more people. It is never about us or our works. It is all about God and His grace that overflows in us.

APPLICATION

- What should be our attitude toward giving? Why is it important to set apart some of our finances to generously give to others?
- How can you live a life of generosity? What are some practical ways you can do to bless those around you?
- Is there someone you can help in your community? Pray for opportunities to help you serve and engage with them.

PRAYER

- Praise God for His overflowing love and grace. Thank Him for allowing you to be an instrument of His generosity.
- Seek God and ask him to prepare your heart so you can always give willingly, cheerfully, and generously when there's a need.
- Pray that you will always look to God and acknowledge His hand in everything that you do. Thank Him for using you to be a channel of His blessing and grace.



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