

GIVING-WHAT FOR?

6-14-2015

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **7** Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.** **8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. **9** As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."**10** **He** 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. **11** You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. **12** For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. **13** By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, **14** while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. **15** Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

CAUSE AND EFFECT RESULTS-Team giving based on members united in one purpose

Little seed planted=small harvest-Abundant seed planted=large harvest

Acts 2:42-47 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people.

And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Bound together in 4 key areas

Financially-Relationally-Spiritually-Proclamation of the Gospel

Warning- 1 Timothy 6:17-19 **As for the rich in this present age**, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Choose for yourself

How much to give-found in your heart-The best 401k program ever

Matthew 6:19-21"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Have a proper motive-contentment with no hesitation, no arm-twisting (yours or others)

Hebrews 13:5-6 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." **6** So we can confidently say "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Results=cheerful giving

On what basis do we have to be "cheerful"?

Factually based on God's promise-He will provide the seed for sowing (its all His!!)
Providing our daily bread physically and spiritually (his sufficiency always) through our submission
We receive rewards in reaping much cheerfully offered

What will we reap?

Increased harvest of righteousness-increasing generosity-
Overflowing inward and outward thanksgiving to God
The surpassing grace of God bestowed upon us

Who benefits?

The Saints-the team who will glorify God

All others that God uses you to be generous with

We do as the Saints pray for us and long to be together with us

God is glorified

Through our confession of the Gospel of Christ and our generosity to all