

# Session 5 – Work Your Plan | 2 Corinthians 9:6-13

## | 3/30/14

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- Introduction
  - We have been in a series of lessons on giving, by looking at chapters 8 and 9 of 2 Corinthians.
  - We have looked at the example of giving that was given by the churches of the Macedonians and their example that Paul was using to the Corinthians.
  - We've seen the encouragement that they have been in there giving when they had nothing to give.
  - We have seen that giving with true generosity is a spiritual gift given to us by God.
  - Paul in his letter to the Corinthians has been encouraging them to give, as their heart has desired.
    - We know that we like the Corinthians can have a desire to give that is from God, but we need to follow through with that giving with the act of giving.
  - Our giving must be from the heart and not out of obligation.
  - We also looked at the blessings that God promises us for his giving, that he even has told us we can test him with our giving, and he will pour out his blessings upon us.
  - Today we will finish by looking in 2 Corinthians 9:6-13.
    - We will talk about not having fear to give, as we don't need to worry about our basic needs.
    - We will look more closely at the blessings that God gives us and what we are too use them for.
    - We will also see that when we give as we are called that God is glorified.
- God will bless those that give generously. | 2 Corinthians 9:6
  - **Read 2 Corinthians 9:6**
  - As we saw last week that those that give generously will reap generously.
  - You cannot out give God, the more you obey and give as he has called you the more he will bless you.
  - This abundance in giving is on your abilities, just because you have little does not mean than you cannot sow generously.
    - Luke 6:38
      - "Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.
    - Jesus makes it clear that if we give out of generosity, we will be also be rewarded by the same measure.
  - Further in this lesson we will look at what we are to do with the blessings that God gives us.
- God loves those that give as has been decided in their heart, not out of reluctance or necessity. | 2 Corinthians 9:7
  - **Read 2 Corinthians 9:7**
  - When we give out of true generosity from the spiritual gift of giving that God has given us.
  - We must give as we have decided in our heart.
    - When we feel God calling for us to give as the need arises, we need to follow through.
  - This giving is done from the heart out of love, not because we feel like we have to or we may look bad if we don't.

- Giving with true generosity is truly to give because you want to help whom you are giving the gift.
- This is what God loves and he will certainly bless.
- There is joy in this giving.
- We should not fear to give, as God will provide everything you need when you are doing God's work. | 2 Corinthians 9:8-9
  - **Read 2 Corinthians 9:8-9**
  - We have established that God loves a generous and cheerful giver, who gives from the heart out of love.
  - We have seen that the more we give the more God will bless us.
  - When we think about giving generously regardless if it is our tithe, to a charity or to help someone in need there can sometimes be a fear in our giving.
  - What if we would then be in want or in need because of our giving?
    - This is one thing a Christian should never worry about, "What if my giving causes me hardship?"
  - Paul makes it clear for us that God will always provide for us, he will make sure we have everything that we need so that we can exceed in his good work.
  - Giving is a "good work"
    - As we see in Ephesians we were created with a purpose for good works.
      - Ephesians 2:10
        - "For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them."
    - There are many good works that God has called us to perform, and one of those is giving.
    - Giving is a spiritual gift that God has given us.
    - Whether we choose to act and use these gifts is up to us.
    - But to use those gifts is an act of love and one of worship to God.
    - It's also important that we realize that the spiritual gifts God gives us including giving, that they were given with a purpose.
    - God intends for us to use the gift of giving to further his kingdom.
    - If we choose not to act we are missing out on what God has planned for us.
  - It pleases God when we are doing his work to the best of our abilities to help others and he will make sure that we have everything that we need.
    - We should also not have fear in our giving because God says that he will provide for us.
    - If we give cheerfully and benevolently we should not worry about our basic needs, as God says he will provide for us.
      - "God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need."
      - Disclaimer—
        - This is not prosperity Gospel I'm talking about either.
        - Everything you need is not everything you want.
        - It has been said by some in the ministry of the riches you can and will receive by God.
        - While he may certainly choose to do that for you, it is by no means that he will.
        - God will provide what you need and if he blesses you with much, he expects much from you.
    - God will equip us to do his work and he will take care of us.

- There is scripture to combat our fears of giving, because to give generously can have quite the opposite affect of what the world might think
  - Proverbs 11:24
    - “One person gives freely, yet gains more; another withholds what is right, only to become poor. A generous person will be enriched, and the one who gives a drink of water will receive water”
  - The one who gives freely gains more and will be enriched.
  - This is because God will reward us for our giving, and because God will make sure that we are equipped for his good works.
  - A Christian can expect that God will bless them for their generous giving that is truly from the heart.
  - A Christian should have faith in God that he will provide for their basic needs and we will not go in want.
    - There is no promise that you will be wealthy just that you will be taken care of.
    - Because what truly matters is that we are guaranteed to be wealthy in heaven as we get to spend an eternity with Christ with no pain or suffering but instead love happiness and joy.
    - That is the wealth that I want, not the temporary joy of wealth here on earth.
- God rewards the righteous giver.
  - In verse 9 Paul references Psalms 112:9 to support what he has been saying about the divine principles of giving.
  - God will take care of the righteous giver while we are here in these bodies and also when our souls spend an eternity in Heaven with God.
- **Do you seeing giving as a ministry that we are all called for?**
- **Knowing that God will make sure that you have everything you need, does that strengthen your faith and ease your fears with your giving?**
- God blesses us and rewards us for our generosity so that we can continue to be generous givers. | 2 Corinthians 9:10-11a
  - ***Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-11a***
  - Paul used the allusion of sowing seed to explain that God not only blesses the giver to supply his need, but also blesses him so that he can continue to be a generous giver.
  - The rewards that God gives us are for our needs, but more importantly than our rewards is that the blessings are so that we can use them to continue to be benevolent givers.
  - Prosperity Gospel disproved.
    - These verses and others have been used to teach prosperity Gospel which is to use the Gospel primarily for personal gain.
    - They take the verses of God’s blessings so that one can work to achieve great personal wealth.
    - While God may bless us with wealth the primary purpose for this is not for us to use it selfishly, but instead for others.
    - Oh and by the way if you have any income at all you are wealthy.
      - The word wealthy sometimes people think excludes 99% of the people, but that is false as we all are wealth.
      - We all are to use what we have for others.
  - Our blessings are not for our selfish desires as God expects much from those that have been given much.
    - The general attitude of prosperity Gospel is personal wealth and happiness, which tends to be very selfish.

- Yes we are blessed and we reap generously when we give from our hearts and with the right attitudes.
- But its important that we realize also that with these blessings that God gives us that he does not give them to use for our selfish desires.
  - The blessings that God gives us are not to be used by us in a sinful way.
  - How dare we use a blessing that God gave us and to either use it for evil or we idolize our possessions and or money.
  - The blessings that God gives us are quite the opposite, in fact if we are blessed and entrusted with much, then God expects much from us.
    - Luke 12:48b
      - “Much will be required of everyone who has been given much. And even more will be expected of the one who has been entrusted with more.”
    - With the blessings that God gives us from our generosity and using our spiritual gifts, then much is expected from us.
    - The more he blesses us the more that is expected.
  - **We need to use what God has given us to do God’s work.**
- God blesses the generous giver so that they can continue to be generous givers,
  - Not so that the giver can satisfy their personal desires or choose to horde and never give of the blessings that God has given them.
  - For example look at the parable of the talents that Jesus spoke of.
    - Overview
      - In this parable Jesus is the master and the slaves are believers.
      - Each of the believers were given different levels of responsibility.
      - Jesus was looking for their faithfulness to use the gifts the spiritual gifts that he had given them to the best of their ability.
        - Does that sound familiar?
        - Didn’t Paul also speak that we have different abilities in our giving?
    - Matthew 25:14-29
    - We are to use the blessings and the spiritual gifts that God has given us to further his kingdom.
    - The believers who acted faithfully were rewarded.
    - The one whom hoarded and buried the spiritual gift was disgraced.
    - Each of us to our own abilities has been given the ability to give. Let us use it to further God’s kingdom and we can watch his blessings abound.
  - **We must use our blessings to continue doing God’s good works that we are called to do.**
  - **Knowing that our blessings are not primarily for our own comfort, but to use them to “increase the harvest of your righteousness”. Does this change the way you look at what God has given you?**
- Your giving to others is recognized as a blessing from God and he will be glorified. | 2 Corinthians 11b-13
  - **Read 2 Corinthians 11b-13**
  - While when we give we may focus on the needs of the one we are giving the gift to.
  - We may look at the need of the person that we are meeting or knowing that our tithes to the church are used to further God’s kingdom.

- What we may not always realize though is that when we give to others from the heart and act on what we feel we are called to do.
- That the receiver will recognize our gift, as a gift from God.
  - We are so thankful when God answers a prayer or a request, well he uses people to give his blessings and answer prayers.
  - So when you feel called to give to someone you may be the tool that God used to deliver his blessing because of your giving.
  - Your obedience to God to obey him when he is calling you to give is that blessing that someone else needs.
    - Example
      - When you felt God call you to put gas in the person parked next to you at the gas station, you may not think much of it.
      - But maybe that person had asked God for financial help because they didn't have the money for the gas and you thinking it wasn't a big deal were actually the answer to someone else's prayer.
    - When you think about it this way, we should hope to always obey God when he calls us to give.
    - God has chosen us to deliver his blessing that is an honor!
    - To be the vessel that God chose to use to make a difference in the life of someone else.
- God is glorified when we obey and give as he has called us.
  - Because of our obedience in obeying God, they will then glorify God for sending us and for the generosity that we showed.
  - Think to a time when you were blessed or a prayer was answered in some way.
  - Think about how you praised and thanked God for the blessing or the answered prayer.
  - Now think to how that blessing was delivered, did it require the obedience of someone else for it to happen?
    - **Example**
      - **Prayer, God's will is to provide, picks another believer**
  - Yes it did, it required obedience and because of that God received the Glory.
  - You see the more we obey God and do as we are called, the more that God can receive the Glory.
    - When we give to others in their time of need, the reason should never be for our glory but instead for God's glory.
    - Because of him we have the desire and the calling to give.
    - To him be the glory forever.
- To give as God has called us shows the proof of our obedience to the Gospel of Christ.
  - For the church of the Corinthians Paul is encouraging their involvement in the collection as this will show their obedient submission to God's word.
  - The Jewish believers who doubted the Gentile salvation were certainly skeptical of the church of the Corinthians because of their many problems.
  - But their act of giving with generosity and in obedience to what God has called them to shows their love of the Gospel and their love for God.
  - Likewise if we give as God has called us, we too will show others that we are not just hearers of the Word, but also doers.
    - James 1:22
      - "But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."
  - Let us be doers of the Word and act when God has called us to give and be a blessing in the lives of others.

- **Have you given glory to God, because someone else was obedient?**