

ENTRUSTED

LIVING AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS



Entrusted // Sermon 2

The Heart of Giving // 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

I want to start with this question: *What would someone say about your faith if they saw the way you spent your money?*

- I know, that's a tough statement.

But it gets to the heart of what Jesus said in:

Matthew 6:21: *Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

- Giving is not a *financial issue*; it's a *heart issue*.

Last week, we started a new series called *Entrusted*.

- We are looking at what it means to be faithful stewards of the things God has entrusted to us.

I mentioned last week, when we talked about stewardship, that some people want to check out.

- I want to encourage you to *lock in*.

Jesus talked more about *money* than he did *heaven* and *hell* combined.¹

“Money is the main subject of nearly half the parables that Jesus told. There are nearly 500 verses on prayer, but nearly 2,000 verses on money.”² - Nate Heitzig

Why?

Because he knew our hearts are often tied to our wallets...

¹ <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/free-from-money-rich-toward-god>

² Nate Heitzig: https://youtu.be/o_ebmXf3d3A

- And what we do with our money reveals what we truly value/treasure with our hearts.

This morning, we will be in **2 Corinthians 9:6-11**.

Big Idea: *True generosity starts with gratitude and grows through faith.*

Let's stand and read this together:

In 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, Paul urges the Corinthians to keep their promise to support the struggling believers in Jerusalem.

- He sent Titus and a few others to help them prepare their gift—not to pressure them, but to stir generosity in their hearts.

2 Corinthians 9:6–11:

[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.

I want to show you three (3) truths about generosity:

1. Generosity flows from a willing heart.

[6] The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly (“with a stingy hand”), and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully (“sow with blessing”)³.

Paul is using a simple farming image to make his point.

- He says, “The farmer reaps what he sows.”
- The more seeds he plants, the more harvest he receives.

³ Warren Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament*.

That's how giving works in God's kingdom.

- It's not ***transactional*** – you don't "give to get".
- It's ***transformational*** – you give because it grows something in you (deepens your trust in Him).

Giving is not about what God wants *from* you; it's about what God wants *for* you.

- When you give, God grows you.
- He stretches your trust and shapes you to look more and more like Him.

Imagine having a bag of seeds:

- You have about 100 seeds in this bag.
- What if you thought, "All I have is 100 seeds. If I let go of them, I might lose them."
- So, you hold on to the seeds – and the field stays empty.

But when you trust the process and plant the seed, something miraculous happens.

- The seed multiplies. The harvest grows.

That's the picture Paul is painting: the only way to see a harvest is to sow the seed (in faith).

- That's what giving is – it's trusting that God can do more when you release your supply to Him.

***God is faithful to bless when we are faithful to obey.*⁴**

Also, there is a posture to our giving:

[7] Each one must give as he has decided in his heart (this is intentional giving – "We get to give!"), **not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful** (hilarious) **giver.**

God doesn't want *reluctant* or *guilt-driven* giving.

- He wants joyful, intentional, Spirit-led generosity.

Why? Because that kind of giving reflects His own heart.

To Paul, our *attitude* matters more than the *amount*.

⁴ Ibid

- A cheerful giver says: “God, everything I have is Yours. I’m honored to give it back to You.”

How do we live this out?

A. Give Intentionally.

B. Give joyfully.

Think about this: This life is the only time we will have an opportunity to give to the Lord.

- You won’t need faith to give in heaven.

Seize the moment.

“The opportunity of a lifetime must be seized within the lifetime of the opportunity.” - Leonard Ravenhill

Generosity flows from a willing heart.

2. Generosity grows from a trusting faith.

Paul shifts from the *heart* of giving to the *foundation* of giving:

[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.

Those three words – “God is able” – are the anchor of generosity.

- The root of our giving is *trust*.
- It’s not about math or logic – it’s about faith.

When you give, you’re declaring something about God: “*Lord, I believe You are my Provider.*”

We don’t give because we have plenty to spare – we give because we trust the One who never runs out.

- It’s not about our ability to earn; it’s about God’s ability to provide.

Paul says: The same God who *gives seed to the sower also gives bread for food.*

- He provides everything we need.

In other words, God doesn't just supply our resources – He multiplies them.

- He takes what you release by faith and turns it into a harvest of righteousness.

Generosity grows in the soil of faith.

Psalm 112:9: He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.

Paul is reminding us that God's children give freely because they trust God to sustain them.

- They live with open hands because they believe God's hands are always open toward them.

Ultimately, our trust isn't based on our situation or circumstance – it's anchored in the cross.

Romans 8:32: He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

If God didn't hold back His own Son, what makes us think He'll hold back what we need?

The cross is proof that God can be trusted.

- **Generosity is believing God is able!**

Generosity grows from a trusting faith.

3. Generosity results in grateful worship.

Paul reveals to us the purpose of generosity:

[11] You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

The ultimate goal of our generosity isn't that people would see *us* – it's that they would see *God*.

- When you give, you participate in His purpose: to make His name known and to experience His goodness.

The purpose of generosity is worship.

Paul says: [11] You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way...

That's God's pattern: *He blesses us so we can be a blessing – and when we do this, it leads to gratitude and adoration within us.*

Generosity multiplies gratitude.

- When you give, people don't just thank you – they thank God!

Every act of generosity becomes a spark of worship!

- St. Augustine said that our giving united us to God in a unique way... But our giving also points people to the Giver of all good things.

The gospel is the greatest act of giving in the world.

2 Corinthians 8:9: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

God didn't give reluctantly – He gave joyfully.

- Jesus didn't give what was left – he gave His very life.

The cross is proof that God holds nothing back from those He loves.

So, we give because He first gave to us.

When the gospel grips your heart, generosity stops feeling like a duty and starts overflowing as a delight.

When you realize what you've received in Christ, you can't help but want to give.

How do we live this out?

1. Start with gratitude.

Take a minute and think about all that God has given to you.

- Once we recognize that we are the recipients of generosity, we can joyfully give.
- Generosity is a response to God's grace.

2. Give intentionally.

Decide in your heart that *now* is the time to start giving.

- Build giving into the regular rhythm of your life.



3. **Trust God completely.**

Generosity requires faith.

- It may not always make sense on paper, but you can trust God.

4. **See giving as worship.**

Every time you obey God and give, you are declaring: “God, You are my Provider. You are my Treasure!”

- Generosity is joining in on the work of God.

There is no greater gift you can give God than yourself.

- God desires relationship and surrender – He wants all of you!

When you give yourself to Him – your affection, your obedience, your trust – you are giving what He treasures most: You!

BULLPEN:

For the hesitant giver:

Maybe you've held back because you're afraid.

- You think, "If I give, I'll have less."

But in God's economy, generosity never leads to lack.

For the guilt-driven giver:

If you give because you feel obligated to, you're missing the joy of giving.

- God is not after your money – He's after your heart.

For the faithful giver:

Keep sowing. You may not see the harvest yet, but God sees every seed.

Paul says that generosity does two things:

- A. **It meets needs:** [11] You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way...
- B. **It multiplies praise:** [11] ... which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

Martin Luther: "There are 3 conversions necessary in the life of a believer: The conversion of the heart, the mind, and the wallet.

The truths about giving:

1. We get to give.
2. We don't give to get.