

GOD'S GENEROSITY

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Do you think is money a spiritual matter? Is the act of giving money a spiritual practice? Why or why not?
- What is your current attitude toward money? What does being generous mean to you?

It might be a surprise to discover that the Bible actually has a lot to say about money. However, as much as we might long for specific figures or percentages to confirm that we're complying with God's will, the Bible focuses primarily on our attitudes toward money. Physical money may not be very spiritual in and of itself, but our handling of it can profoundly reflect and impact the state of our faith. This makes money a very spiritual matter for writers of the Bible like the apostle Paul. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Paul urges believers to embrace generosity, arguing that there is much more than just financial security at stake.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- What factors, attitudes, or mindsets influence your giving decisions? Which factors are the same and which are different if you're deciding to give of your time or talent versus giving of your money?
- How do we discuss passages like 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 with individuals who say things like, "Okay, I've done what he asked. I gave to the Church, to the poor, to...even when money was tight and I struggled to pay my own bills. Where's my blessing? Why am I still struggling?" How do compassion and grace inform this type of conversation?
- Have you ever observed someone being drawn to God, or drawn deeper into relationship with God, as a result of a generous believer? In contrast, have you ever seen a Christian's attitude toward or treatment of money be an obstacle to the faith of an unbeliever or new believer?
- Why does economic disparity make it so hard for us to talk about money, stewardship, or generosity together? Is it possible to change this?
- At the end of segment 3, host Scott Hoezee compares giving to a doxology or praise. How does this analogy affect your perspective on your tithe?

Related Passages

- **Genesis 4:1-6**
- **Acts 5:1-11**
- **Matthew 6:24-34**

Conclusion

Consider these thoughts from Jeff Munroe's reflection on 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 in the booklet "Living Generously," published by Words of Hope.

True givers, those who give out of gratitude, give generously and joyfully without strings. They are the richest people I know. This has been true for ages, as Proverbs 11:24 says: "Some give freely, and yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due, and only suffer want." The truly generous have discovered the secret of 1 Timothy 6:6, "There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment." True riches are not found in silver or gold but in grateful, joyful, generous hearts.

Spend some time reflecting on your attitude toward money, your relationship with money, and your giving habits. Do they reflect God's generosity and your gratitude? Where do you see room for change or improvement? Pray for a healthy attitude towards and relationship with money that honors God and contributes to the growth of God's kingdom.

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Printed on March 29, 2024