

Unfortunately, you may have been on the receiving end of some high pressure tactics by some well meaning believers. I know that is out there. Laura and I read a book on support raising by a well known organization...not our own. The founder of this group was a former salesman who advocated spiritual arm twisting because it worked. I mean, meeting one on one with people and telling them how much you think they can afford to give to your ministry! If you have personally experienced this kind of tactic, I am sorry. That is unbiblical and I want to arm you with the truth. The truth is that you never have to stand for that kind of arm twisting. The truth also is that when you cheerfully give to Gods work, God promises to give you a bountiful harvest. This is a wonderful truth found in 2 Corinthians 9: 6-11. Here it is in a nutshell:

**Give cheerfully and God will lavish His grace on you and provide for you.  
The result will be spiritual blessing and more resources to give away.**

Now, let's look at this in more detail. We will break it down into 4 points, but first the background.

This is the second letter Paul is writing to the church at Corinth. In Chapter 8 and 9 Paul is reminding them about the generous gift they had promised to send the to struggling believers in Jerusalem. Their generous pledge had inspired the much poorer church in Macedonia to give way beyond their means. So Paul is writing to encourage them with this news as well as make sure they remembered their promise and will be ready to give the gift when he arrives. One last important tidbit. Just like in today's world, people in Corinth had been taken advantage of by "spiritual gurus". In fact, people were falsely accusing Paul of just being after their money. In Chapter 11 Paul addresses those charges, and here he is careful to paint an accurate picture of giving without any manipulation.

So, let's read over this passage. Remember our main point  
Give cheerfully and God will lavish His grace on you and provide for you.  
The result will be spiritual blessing and more resources to give away.

### **2 Corinthians 9:6-11**

<sup>6</sup> The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

Now let's look at 4 points that clarify and demonstrate what we just read.

**1) The Harvest Principle...you reap in proportion to what you sow. (vs 6)**  
Verse 6 says; The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. This is the over arching principle Paul wants to convey and he takes the rest of the chapter to flesh it out. This is obvious

to a farmer. If you have 100 acres and you only plant 25 of them, you will harvest about 25 acres worth of crop. If you plant 25 you will not produce 100 acres worth of grain. Paul states this spiritual principle in agricultural terms and then he goes on to explain/defend it. The first key element is attitude.

2) **Cheerfully give whatever you want...no pressure...no regrets. (vs.7)**

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And....”

I don't know about you but I see this passage as very liberating! God doesn't want you to feel sadness because of your giving or feel like you have no choice at all. God wants us to freely choose how much to give. Next time you feel someone pressuring you to give, pull this verse out and relax. Give whatever you decide and do it cheerfully. That word for cheerful or happy is Hil-ar-ous in the Greek. Sound familiar

“What if I am NEVER happy about giving..should I not give at all?” Notice the order of this command in your Bible and notice the two little words.. “Don't give with regret or under coercion, BECAUSE / FOR God loves a cheerful giver AND...” Your cheerfulness should come from the fact that you have no pressure, cheerfulness should come from the fact that it pleases God and finally your cheerfulness is rooted in the promise of the next verse...notice the word AND.

3) **God will lavish His grace on you and provide for you. (vs.8)**

This promise is so overwhelming and so complete it should give you a hilariously generous heart.

<sup>8</sup> 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.”

The original Greek in this verse is just exploding with depth and meaning. For example. That little Greek word for “all” is amazing. It actually means **all**. It also can be translated as every, each, **any**, one of a totality, **total**, complete, **whole**, **every kind of**

So, Let me read this verse again only expanding on each of the key words. God is able...he is powerful, mighty...literally,...he is strong enough to pour out more blessing and favor on you than you could ever possibly use. So that...or for this reason...That in any and every situation at any possible time you will possess all that you need to more than accomplish any good deed, assignment or task set before you.”

It is like we are living on this earth in a hot, dry desert. We have one canteen of cold water. When someone comes up in need of a drink, it can be easy to only want to give them a little. After all, you have to have enough for yourself. Well, this verse is basically showing us that God has a giant bucket in heaven. You know the kind of buckets you find at water parks...set up really high with a giant pipe pouring water into it. It starts to teeter back and forth as it fills up. You know what I mean right? Well God is saying that he has that kind of bucket. So when he sees us cheerfully giving out of our little canteen, he can easily replenish our supply and then some.

Basically, you can not out-give God!!!!

I also see this as a panoramic promise. It is focused on God's provision of finances, but the fact that this provision includes any and every good work, I think,

allows us to see this broader as well. I believe the promise applies to any area of giving...of time, of talent, of assistance and of finances. One last point to make which tells us how to deal with the Bountiful harvests that God gives to us.

- 4) **Physical blessings are intended for generous giving. (vs. 10-11)** <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.”

God...who provides for you...will supply whatever you decide to give and then will also increase that supply so you can give more. Notice the bountiful harvest we receive for our enjoyment is a harvest of righteousness. When you give cheerfully, you grow in intimacy with the father, you see him do amazing things in your life and you see him bless others because of your obedience. That is a bountiful harvest!

See verse 11. “You will be enriched in every way so you can be generous in every way.” This will produce thanksgiving to God. Paul finishes out the chapter laying down more details, but the principle is clear. God gives you more so you can give more. I think this is why Paul can say that we should start out by giving whatever we want. Whatever we give will result in us getting more to give away. Put it this way. If you follow this pattern, you will end up being incredibly generous regardless of how much you start giving.

The more you give, the more you get to give away. However, if you take that increased seed which God intended for sowing, and you spend it on yourself don't expect that you will get more. Look at what James says in chapter 4 starting at verse

<sup>2</sup> You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

It is my great desire for all you to know God deeply and passionately.

I want you all to live lives where you see God using you so please cheerfully give as much as you want to whatever God wants you to give to. If you do God promises to lavish His grace on you and to provide for you. The result will be spiritual blessing and more resources so that you can be even more generous. This is the blessed life and so let's all go out and live it.