

1 Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, 2 for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them. 3 But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be. 4 Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident. 5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction. 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 for ever.”

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 flowing 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!

Reading the Text:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.
2. What is the principle of giving stated in verse 6?
3. What does Paul challenge the Corinthians to do about their personal giving, according to verse 7?
4. What is God able to do, according to verse 8?
5. What is the result of faithful stewardship, according to verse 9?
6. What are the Corinthians promised, according to verse 11?
7. What two things happen, according to verse 12, when we are faithful in our giving?
8. What does Paul thank God for in verse 15?
9. Who or what is the 'indescribable gift'?

Thinking Deeper:

1. What does the Bible say about Tithing?
2. How can one give 'cheerfully'?
3. Explain the link between sowing and reaping?
4. Jesus said 'Freely you have received, freely give.' [Matt 10:8] What does this mean?