

## Overcoming Fear and Self Sufficiency with Finances 2 Corinthians 9

### Be intentional to support God's people and His Work. II Corinthians 9:1-4

- Through thoughtful preparation. "readiness" =  
*"for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, namely, that Achaia has been prepared since last year"* (v.2)
- As a means of encouraging others to give.  
*"...and your zeal has stirred up most of them."* (v.2)
- You eliminate any shame or fear.  
*"...if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to speak of you—will be put to shame by this confidence."* (v.4)

### Develop spiritually healthy habits in giving to God's work. II Corinthians 9:5, 7

- Be willing to learn healthy habits in giving to God.  
*"So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand..."* (v.5)
- Healthy habits promote prearranged planned gifts. I Corinthians 16:1, 2  
*"...your previously promised bountiful gift."* (v.5) "bountiful" =
- Healthy habits help you avoid potential negative attitudes.  
*"...not affected by covetousness."* (v.5) "covetousness" =  
*"Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart not grudgingly or under compulsion..."* (v.7)

### Discover the joy of your faithful stewardship. II Corinthians 9:6-11

- The joy of a "bountiful" return on your investment with the Lord.  
*"Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully"* (v.6)
- The joy of God's abundant grace and sufficiency for every good work. Vs. 8-11  
*"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed"* (v.8)
- The joy of a cheerful and thankful heart.  
*"for God loves a cheerful giver."* (v.7) "cheerful" =  
*"which through us is producing thanksgiving to God"* (v.11)

### Measure the impact of your giving. II Corinthians 9:9-15

- Am I contributing to fully supply the needs of the saints? (v.12)
- Am I able to give thanks to God for the gifts? (v.12)
- Is God being glorified as I obey Him? (v.13)
- Is the gospel of Christ advanced by my gifts? (v.13)
- Is there a strong bond created with the believers from my support? (v.14)

## Digging Deeper:

It is natural for us to have some fear as we give to the Lord. We may fear not having enough money for our own needs or having to give up too much to support our current lifestyle. Some fear a commitment to Christ based on the fact that He will claim ownership over all that the person owns. Such ownership is difficult and fearful to put completely in the hands of God. Some fear what He will ask of them as they learn about people like Job. We want to replace that fear with trust. God loves us like His children and wants what is best for us. Contentment and true joy comes as we learn to trust God rather than fear Him with our wealth.

**Write one of the questions below on the Giving Envelope from the chair rack of the seat in front of you.**

**Consider what way your gifts are responding to these questions:**

- Am I contributing to fully supply the needs of the saints? (v.12)
- Am I able to give thanks to God for the gifts? (v.12)
- Is God being glorified as I obey Him? (v.13)
- Is the gospel of Christ advanced by my gifts? (v.13)
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## LifeGroup Discussion:

Consider the following questions to ask and discuss as they relate to the four key points on the front of this outline. Obviously these all would take time, so select some that are important to you.

**Be intentional to support God's people and His Work. Read II Corinthians 9:1-4**

- Who should be the primary recipients of your gifts?
- What are some specific places to give in that way?
- In II Corinthians 9:2, the zeal of the Corinthians caused a greater zeal for the Macedonians to give. Why do you think the faithful giving of some believers creates a zeal for others to give?

**Develop spiritually healthy habits in giving to God's work. Read II Corinthians 9:5, 7**

- What resources are you aware of to learn healthy habits for giving to the Lord? (check today's bulletin)
- What are some healthy habits you have developed which can help other people?
- What damage will these attitudes do to giving: "covetousness," "grudging," "compulsion" from vs. 5, 7?

**Discover the joy of your faithful stewardship. Read II Corinthians 9:6-11**

- How have you seen the Lord use your gifts to accomplish good works for Him?
- Remember a time when God's grace provided for your needs.
- Have you seen people give thanks for the Lord for His great provisions from other people's gifts?

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## Next Steps:

**Attend a Generous Living Event**

Generous Living is Calvary's financial discipleship ministry. Their passion is for every believer in Jesus to experience the blessing that comes from living a balanced and generous life. Check out the upcoming Generous Living classes and learn more at [calvarylife.org/generous](http://calvarylife.org/generous)

- **Financial Peace University** | Wednesdays through April 13 | 7:00 pm in W-209  
Learn the practical aspects of how to beat debt, find bargains, invest for the future and more.
- **Estate Planning + Living Trust Seminar** | Saturday, February 27 | 8:45 am - Noon in Fellowship Hall  
Learn about estate planning, living trusts, and how to pass on a legacy that blesses and does not hurt loved ones.



CONNECT.GROW.REACH  
1010 N. Tustin Ave. | Santa Ana | CA

phn | 714.973.4800  
web | [calvarylife.org](http://calvarylife.org)