



THANKFUL FOR...
"My Season to Share"

2 Corinthians 9
November 9, 2014

Your Giving Will Energize & Exhort Others to Give

Vs 1-5

"I have given you an example that by working hard like this we should help the weak. We should remember the words that the Lord Jesus said, 'Giving gifts is more satisfying than receiving them.'" Acts 20:35 (GW)

Your Giving Will Enrich Your Life Vs 6-11a

- ✓ The Principle of Increase
- ✓ The Principle of Intent
- ✓ The Principle of Immediacy

"Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over." Proverbs 3:9-10; (Message)

"He who is generous will be blessed, For he gives some of his food to the poor." Proverbs 22:9 (NASU)

"Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands — all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you." Luke 6:38 (TEV)

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:19* (NIV)

Your Giving Will Encourage Thanksgiving to the Lord

Vs 11b,12b

"When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you." *Deuteronomy 8:10* (NASU)

"Let them bring songs of thanksgiving as their sacrifice. Let them tell in joyful songs what he has done."

Psalms 107:22 (GW)

Your Giving Will Ease Other's Needs Vs 12a

"When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality." *Romans 12:13* (NLT)

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." *Galatians 6:10* (ESV)

"Don't forget to do good things for others and to share what you have with them. These are the kinds of sacrifices that please God." *Hebrews 13:16* (GW)

Your Giving Will Exalt God Vs 13

Your Giving Will Elicit Prayer Vs 14

"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." *1 Thessalonians 1:2-3* (NIV)

Your Giving Will Express & Exemplify the Heart of God

Vs 15

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him"

John 3:16-17 (NIV)

"Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?"

Romans 8:32 (NLT)

"This is how God showed his love to us: He sent his one and only Son into the world so that we could have life through

him. This is what real love is: It is not our love for God; it is God's love for us in sending his Son to be the way to take away our sins." 1 John 4:9-10 (NCV)

Ways You Can Express the Heart of God Right Now...

- ✓ **Give Your Heart and Life To Christ TODAY!**
It's as simple as ABC! **Admit** you are a sinner (You Need God's Grace), **Ask** Him to Forgive All your Sins; **Believe** that Jesus is God's Son; **Confess** Him as Savior and **Commit** your life to Him as Lord for the rest of your life!! **Your next step is Baptism...** Have you made that public and followed through with Baptism? If not, you can do that today as well.
- ✓ **Come Join and Be A Part of the Family of God here @ Petal FBC** and helping us to bring the good news of the Gospel to our community & to the ends of the earth!
- ✓ **Commit to Sharing Your Life with Someone Else**
Through a ministry in our Church, through a LifeGroup, through a Mission Opportunity or Trip
- ✓ **Our 2014 Church Ministry Plan** This is the plan laid out to fund the ministries of our Church Family in 2014
- ✓ **Operation Christmas Child** Pack a shoebox for a child around the world. Our Goal is 300 + boxes (*Deadline is November 16*)
- ✓ **Thanksgiving Baskets** Provide 125 cans of Cranberry Sauce of Baskets to be made by Petal Children's task Force for needy families (*Deadline is November 23*)
- ✓ **Angel Tree Ministry** Buy Christmas Gifts for children living in Foster Care with DHS in Forest County (*Deadline is November 30*)
- ✓ **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering** Our Annual Offering for International Missions and our Goal is \$17,000 + (*1 Day InGathering Sunday – December 14th*)

THANKFUL FOR...

“My Season to Share”

2 Corinthians 9

November 9, 2014 AM Worship

So we continue our series this morning Thankful and last week we talked about our decision to be thankful. This sets up this entire series.

1 Important Perspective: Giving Thanks

Ephesians 5:20 tells us *“giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (NRSV)

2 Important Phrases At All Times For Everything

1 Important Person: The Focus of our thankfulness - God the Father

The first thing we talked about was being **Thankful for Our Story** – the story of our lives the Lord is writing. We all have a story, we are confident the Lord is writing our story, we are compelled to live our story purposefully, and finally we are called to share our story. On that note – have you written our your story, have you shared it with someone, are you praying who you can share it with that doesn't know Christ this month? I am looking forward to hearing about you sharing your stories this month!

We turn to the 2nd thing that we are called to be thankful for – Our Season to Share. Now let me be clear, though this is a time that we really focus on sharing and giving to others, my desire is that we will look far beyond just this month and next. Now, no doubt these are some very important opportunities to share, we must be willing to people and Christ Followers who understand it is always our season to share with others from what the Lord has richly blessed us with.

I want us to take a look at a passage of Scripture from the **2nd letter to the Corinthians** that really gives us a fresh perspective on why we should be thankful that we have a chance to share, to give to the Lord and to others. I think you might be surprised at what we will find this morning!

It seems strange that we Christians need encouragements to give, when God has given so much to us. God had enriched the Corinthians in a wonderful way, and yet they were hesitant to share what they had with others. So Paul gives them some tremendous words of encouragement that they needed to hear and so do we.

Your Giving Will Energize & Exhort Others to Give Vs 1-5

“I have given you an example that by working hard like this we should help the weak. We should remember the words that the Lord Jesus said, 'Giving gifts is more satisfying than receiving them.'” Acts 20:35 (GW)

Now we have to be careful here because it's a fine line – it's balance. We are told in Scripture (Matthew 6:1-4) elsewhere to not talk about what we give, to give in secret and the Lord will reward in secret. So what does this mean? The focus is more towards the Church as a whole. It's ok, in fact you should let others know that you have given this grace gift just as the Macedonian church had already done so and Paul was encouraging now the Corinthians to do what they had promised to do. The encouragement is to remember the motive of our giving, not out of pride but out of sharing and that sharing could encourage, provoke if you will others to do the same. I often challenge you though not sharing with you what I give, I want you to know that I give and that I give sacrificially, that I am not asking you to do something that I am not doing myself. I hope that it sets an example, an encouragement and even exhortation for you to give! That is why we have testimonies from time to time about those who give – not to brag, but to share what the Lord has done in them and through them when they realized the incredible blessing of giving!

Your Giving Will Enrich Your Life Vs 6-11a

This is perhaps one of the greatest secrets about giving, is that in giving away something that we think we have to have or need, brings us a blessing that many times we cannot even imagine. And here Paul gives three principles that help us to see the importance of giving and what it can bring in our lives if we do it! Jesus said, “Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands — all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you.” Luke 6:38 (TEV)

“Giving is not something we do, but something we are. Giving is a way of life for the Christian who understands the grace of God.” Warren Weirsbe

We don't give to get, but instead we understand that a fringe benefit or blessing is that the Lord will in turn bless us – not necessarily financially, many times it is far greater and more valuable than that!

✓ **The Principle of Increase** Vs 6 “Remember this—a farmer who

plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.”

This is not very difficult to understand, we will reap what we sow. If we plant little seed, we will get a little crop. If we invest a little money, we will only have a little return. The more we invest in the things of the Lord, the greater the return will be either here or in eternity to come! So Paul is clear, we need to give a lot and then direct result is that we will reap the benefits! “Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over.” *Proverbs 3:9-10* (Message)

- ✓ **The Principle of Intent Vs 7** “You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. ‘For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.’”

We will reap and sow as we do so with the right motives. How a farmer plants his crop or investor invests his money makes little difference, but not so for the Christ Follower. Paul says the Lord loves a cheerful giver not one who gives unwillingly, begrudgingly or out of compulsion because that is what I'm supposed to do. The Greek word means literally means hilarious. Are you and I that kind of giver? “He who is generous will be blessed, For he gives some of his food to the poor.” *Proverbs 22:9* (NASU) Certainly God can bless a gift that is given out of a sense of duty, but God cannot bless the giver unless his heart is right. “While it is possible to give without loving, it is not possible to love without giving.” McArthur

- ✓ **The Principle of Immediacy Vs 8-11a** “And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, “They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.” For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous.”

The incredible thing is that we can reap even as we are still sowing! Many times as does the farmer we have to wait for the harvest, but sometimes the Lord blesses and we can see immediate results.” We get

some immediate blessing from the Lord. God is able to make ALL grace, ALWAYS, having ALL sufficiency in everything – I have all that I need in the Lord and I find that in no person or any other thing! The Lord is going to take care of us and many times we will experience in grace in an amazing ways, we are incredibly fulfilled in knowing that we were able to give and someone was blessed! And the by product is we know that our needs will be meet by the Lord who has it all! “**And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:19 (NIV)***”

Your Giving Will Encourage Thanksgiving to the Lord Vs 11b,12b

“...And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.” “...and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.”

Did you realize that when you give and share with others, that the direct effect is that they too become thankful to God. That they realize and understand that this comes from God Himself. Though He used you and I to do it, it came from Him! **ILLUS: Family in need – another provides** I watched them give thanks to the Lord for His provision! Our giving can cause others to worship and bring thanksgiving to the Lord!

“When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.” *Deuteronomy 8:10 (NASU)*

“Let them bring songs of thanksgiving as their sacrifice. Let them tell in joyful songs what he has done.” *Psalms 107:22 (GW)*

Your Giving Will Ease Other's Needs Vs 12a “So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met,...”

When the Lord presents a need before us and puts it on our heart to do it, then we must do it – again not because we have to do or ought to, we want to! And our giving can meet the needs of another, alleviate suffering, bring the Gospel to them in a way that they can see it and understand it whether through \$ providing resources or the resource themselves.

“**When a Christian starts to think of excuses for not giving, he automatically moves out of the sphere of grace giving. Grace never looks for a reason, it only looks for an opportunity. If there is a need to be met, the grace-controlled Christian will do what he can to meet it.**” Weirsb

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” *Galatians 6:10* (ESV) “When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.” *Romans 12:13* (NLT)

“Don't forget to do good things for others and to share what you have with them. These are the kinds of sacrifices that please God.” *Heb 13:16* (GW)
What an incredible opportunity the Lord gives us and allows us to participate in, seeing the needs of others met. There is no greater joy!

Your Giving Will Exalt God Vs 13 “As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.”

Now it goes even a step further – not only will our giving cause them to be thankful but will bring glory to the Lord and even encourage them to do the same – to give all the glory to God. That is our greatest calling in life – to bring glory to the Lord and thus encouraging others to give Him the glory due His name as well! *Isaiah 26:8* “Indeed, while following the way of Your judgments O Lord, We have waited for you earnestly; Your name, even Your renown is the desire of our souls.”

All this provides proof to the lost and even to the saved that our lives are real and authentic and true and here the way that is shown by the way that we give! That’s why I don’t ever mind talking about giving because it is one of the key indicators that we are a Christ Follower and not a fan! Is our community thankful we are and cause them to see Christ?

Many on this recent assessment said yes that our being here makes a huge difference in this community, and I agree and I disagree – we are doing things we have never done before, but there is far more that we must do!

STORY: I recall reading about a wealthy Christian who daily, at family devotions, prayed for the needs of the missionaries that his church supported. One morning, after he had concluded family prayers, his little boy said, "Dad, if I had your checkbook, I could answer your prayers!" A discerning lad, indeed!

Your Giving Will Elicit Prayer Vs 14 “And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you.”

I never thought about this one... but our giving to others will encourage them to pray for you and not just yeah, I’ll pray for you, but

pray from a heart of deep affection. My giving can encourage others to pray. That is amazing!

“We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” *1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (NIV)*

Your Giving Will Express & Exemplify the Heart of God Vs 15

“Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!”

We are never more like the Lord than when we give.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him” *John 3:16-17 (NIV)*

“Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? *Romans 8:32 (NLT)*

“This is how God showed his love to us: He sent his one and only Son into the world so that we could have life through him. This is what real love is: It is not our love for God; it is God's love for us in sending his Son to be the way to take away our sins.” *1 John 4:9-10 (NCV)*

Ways You Can Express the Heart of God Right Now...

✓ Give Your Heart and Life To Christ TODAY!

It's as simple as ABC! **Admit** you are a sinner (You Need God's Grace), **Ask** Him to Forgive All your Sins; **Believe** that Jesus is God's Son; **Confess** Him as Savior and **Commit** your life to Him as Lord for the rest of your life!! **Your next step is Baptism...** Have you made that public and followed through with Baptism? If not, you can do that today as well.

✓ Come Join and Be A Part of the Family of God here @ Petal FBC and helping us to bring the good news of the Gospel to our community & to the ends of the earth!

✓ Commit to Sharing Your Life with Someone Else Through a ministry in our Church, through a LifeGroup, through a Mission Opportunity or Trip

✓ Our 2014 Church Ministry Plan This is the plan laid out to fund the ministries of our Church Family in 2014

- ✓ **Operation Christmas Child** Pack a shoebox for a child around the world. Our Goal is 300 + boxes (*Deadline is November 16*)
- ✓ **Thanksgiving Baskets** Provide 125 cans of Cranberry Sauce of Baskets to be made by Petal Children's task Force for needy families (*Deadline is November 23*)
- ✓ **Angel Tree Ministry** Buy Christmas Gifts for children living in Foster Care with DHS in Forest County (*Deadline is November 30*)
- ✓ **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering** Our Annual Offering for International Missions and our Goal is \$17,000 + (*1 Day InGathering Sunday – December 14th*)