

Joyful Life Bible Studies

II CORINTHIANS 9:1-15

Lesson 15

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. *Giving is a vital part of Christian living.* In what way have you been inspired or encouraged by the examples and exhortations found in II Corinthians 8:1-24?
 - a. What specific ministry opportunities for giving are you aware of?

2. In II Corinthians 9 Paul continued to instruct the Corinthian believers concerning *ministering to the saints* in Jerusalem. Studying the practical principles and precious promises in this chapter will enrich and encourage us. Read II Corinthians 9:1-15. In Pastor Chuck's New Testament Study Guide he titled Chapter Nine *The Spiritual Law of Giving*. Keep this in mind as you write II Corinthians 9:6 here phrase by phrase.
 - a. Choose and record a phrase or verse that particularly captured your attention.

3. In preparation for your in-depth study of II Corinthians 9 write a prayer expressing your desire to understand the scriptures and apply what you learn to your life. Remember to thank the Lord for His Word and for hearing and answering your prayer.

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and comes down from the Father of lights,
with Whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*
James 1:17 NKJV

SECOND DAY: Read II Corinthians 9:1-5

1. Chapters Eight and Nine of II Corinthians are closely related. Observe Paul's statement in II Corinthians 9:1 NLT: *I really don't need to write to you about this gift for the Christians in Jerusalem.* Why did he continue to write to them about this? Use verses 2-5 to help you with your answer.

- a. In what way did their original passion for giving influence others? verse 2b

- (1.) Suggest a way we might be able to influence others in giving.

2. In II Corinthians 9:5 the *brethren* refers to Titus and the two unnamed men Paul was sending to Corinth to handle the gift (II Corinthians 8:16-24). The word *bounty* is used twice in verse 5. Using a dictionary define the word *bounty* in the context of this verse.

- a. The phrase *not as of covetousness* in verse 5c has been translated *not as one grudgingly given* (NIV) and in the NLT *not one given under pressure*. Why is it important not to give grudgingly or under pressure?

- (1.) Contrast this negative attitude with the following: *but as a generous and willing gift* (verse 5c Amplified). Write your thoughts here.

3. What do you learn about giving from Matthew 25:34-40?

*The generous prosper and are satisfied;
those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.*
Proverbs 11:25 NLT

THIRD DAY: Read II Corinthians 9:6,7

1. Paul used a natural law in agriculture to illustrate an important spiritual principle. Think about this as you fill in the missing words from II Corinthians 9:6:

He which soweth _____ shall _____ also _____; and

he which soweth _____ shall _____ also _____.

- a. Define the following words:

(1.) *sparingly*

(2.) *bountifully*

2. With II Corinthians 9:6 in mind write what you learn about the spiritual law of *sowing and reaping* from the following verses:

- a. Proverbs 11:24

- b. Malachi 3:10

- c. Luke 6:38

- d. Pastor Chuck says: *Spiritual laws are as reliable as the laws of nature.* Comment on this.

3. II Corinthians 9:7 is another important verse on the subject of giving. Do you ever ask yourself, *how much should I give?* How does verse 7 help answer this question?

- a. Focus on the last phrase of verse 7 by printing it here in large block letters. Selah.

4. In II Corinthians 9:7 the Greek word for *cheerful* is the root of our English word *hilarious*. Think about what it means to be a hilarious giver. God is more concerned about the attitude than the amount of the gift. What can we do to assure that we have the right attitude in giving?

FOURTH DAY: Read II Corinthians 9:8-11

1. In II Corinthians 9:8 the focus shifts from man's giving to the Giver of all things. Every phrase of this verse is meaningful. Consider this as you print verse 8 here, personalizing it by writing your name instead of the words *you* and *ye*.
 - a. Notice the repetition of the word *all*. What does this say to you?
 - b. Verse 8 is not a promise of material wealth. The word *sufficiency* means *adequate resources within*, indicating that through God we have the adequacy to meet all the demands of life. Briefly share a personal testimony of this.
2. *God is able* is an awesome declaration that reveals His omnipotence. Many scriptures use this phrase. Let the following verses expand your view of the Lord as you write key phrases from:
 - a. Ephesians 3:20
 - b. Hebrews 2:18
 - c. Hebrews 7:25
 - d. Jude 24
 - e. How do these scriptures minister to you today?

Advanced Students: Research and report on the principles Paul used from the Old Testament to validate his point. (II Corinthians 9:9,10)

3. God provides materially and spiritually so that we *may abound to every good work* (verse 8). According to II Corinthians 9:11 what will result?

My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19

FIFTH DAY: Read II Corinthians 9:12-15

1. Notice II Corinthians 9:12-14 is one sentence in the KJV. In this sentence Paul emphasized the benefits of cheerful giving. List them from verses 12b-14 NLT: *the needs of the Christians in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanksgiving to God. You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts. For your generosity to them will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the wonderful grace of God shown through you.*
 - a. Which one of these benefits is especially meaningful to you?
 - (1.) Share why.
2. Once again the word *grace* is associated with giving in II Corinthians 9:14. Recall a time when you were a recipient of God's grace through another's generosity. Follow the example of this verse and pray now.
3. As Paul finished his instruction and exhortation on giving he expressed his appreciation to the greatest Giver of all. Consider this by writing II Corinthians 9:15 here. Selah.
 - a. With John 3:16 in mind express your thanksgiving to God for *His indescribable Gift* (NIV); *a Gift too wonderful for words* (NLT).

Thank God, then, for His indescribable generosity to you!
II Corinthians 9:15 Phillips

SIXTH DAY: Review II Corinthians 9:1-15

1. How has your study of II Corinthians 9:1-15 influenced your view of giving?
 - a. What might help each of us grow in the area of generosity?

2. With the subject of giving in mind, write a brief statement about the following:
 - a. *sowing and reaping*

 - b. *cheerful giving*

 - c. *thanksgiving to God*

3. Explain the promise of II Corinthians 9:8 as you would to a new Christian.

4. In light of what you learned through this week's study state how giving affects:
 - a. *the giver*

 - b. *the receiver*

5. In what way has your study of Chapter Nine stirred you to action?

Cheerful giving is an act of love from the heart.
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