

Series: Generous Living

Message: In The Midst Of Other's Needs, Part Three

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8-9

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Generous Living in the midst of other's needs is to live self-sacrificially while experiencing supernatural joy.

Past two weeks:

1. *God's Grace Lays At The Foundation Of Self-Sacrifice. 8:1-2*

#1 Generosity Is A Work of God's Grace

2. *God's People Should Delight In Making Sacrifices For Kingdom Causes. 8:3-9*

#2 Generosity Is Accompanied By Delight

3. *Self-Sacrifice Should Be Stimulated More By Need Than By Personal Interest. 8:12-15*

#3 Generosity Is Motivated By Others' Needs

This week:

2 Corinthians 8:16-9:4

¹⁶ *But thanks be to God who puts the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus.*

¹⁷ *For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest, he has gone to you of his own accord.*

¹⁸ *We have sent along with him the brother whose fame in the things of the gospel has spread through all the churches;*

¹⁹ *and not only this, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and to show our readiness,*

²⁰ *taking precaution so that no one will discredit us in our administration of this generous gift;*

²¹ *for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.*

²² *We have sent with them our brother, whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things, but now even more diligent because of his great confidence in you.*

²³ *As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brethren, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ.*

²⁴ *Therefore openly before the churches, show them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.*

¹ *For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints;*

² *for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, namely, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them.*

³ *But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared;*

⁴ *otherwise if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to speak of you—will be put to shame by this confidence.*

4. Giving By Promise Can Appropriately Precede The Gift Itself. 9:5

2 Corinthians 9:5

⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness.

#4 Generosity Appropriately Includes Indication of Intentions

5. Self-Sacrifice Is Easily Sidetracked By Personal Covetousness. 9:5

2 Corinthians 9:5

⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness.

#5 Generosity Is Easily Derailed By Personal Covetousness

6. God Has Promised Blessing To Enable The Giver To Make Sacrifices Which Meet Others' Needs.

2 Corinthians 9:6

⁶ Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Luke 6:38

³⁸ "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

2 Corinthians 9:8

⁸ 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;

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

¹⁰ Now 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 everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

#6 Generosity Is A Recipe For Life Blessing

Generous Living in the midst of other's needs is to live self-sacrificially while experiencing supernatural joy.