



SEED FOR SOWING

Moving from Readiness to Action

2 Corinthians 9.10-11



CONTEXT OF 2 CORINTHIANS 9

- ▶ The Corinthians were instructed to gather from amongst themselves for the poor saints in Jerusalem – 1 Corinthians 16.1ff
- ▶ Months later, the Corinthians had yet to follow through with what they had consented to do – 2 Corinthians 8.10-11
- ▶ They were ready to act; they simply needed to initiate – 9.2-3



WASN'T THIS A ONE-TIME NEED?

Why should the church take a collection without needy saints?

- ▶ It is true 1 Corinthians 16 is addressing a collection for the needy saints in Jerusalem (16.3; Romans 15.25,26).
- ▶ However, it is the only NT passage which specifically addresses how a local church funds itself (16.1-2; 2 Corinthians 8-9).
- ▶ Local churches did more than relieving needy saints in Jerusalem:
 - Paul was supported in his preaching (Philippians 4.15ff; 2 Corinthians 11.8) by the Philippian church.
 - Barnabbas was supported in his encouragement (Acts 11.22f).

HOW THEY WERE TO GIVE

2 Corinthians 8-9

- ▶ Based upon what was had – 2 Corinthians 8.12
- ▶ With the realization that the tables may turn – 2 Corinthians 8.14f
- ▶ With generosity – 2 Corinthians 8.20
- ▶ With forethought and planning – 2 Corinthians 9.2-5
- ▶ Free from covetousness – 2 Corinthians 9.5
- ▶ Bountifully and cheerfully – 2 Corinthians 9.6-7



BASED ON WHAT THEY HAD

2 Corinthians 8.12

Is my giving consistent with what I have?

Is my giving consistent with what I have been prospered?



KNOWING THE TABLES MAY TURN

2 Corinthians 8.14f

Is my giving consistent with what I have?

Do I give how I would want another to give if I was to be the recipient?



WITH GENEROSITY

2 Corinthians 8.20

Considering how I have been prospered, is my giving generous or selfish?



WITH FORETHOUGHT AND PLANNING

2 Corinthians 9.2-5

How much thought goes into my contribution?

When was the last time I sat down to consider if my giving is consistent with my prosperity?



FREE FROM COVETOUSNESS

2 Corinthians 9.5

Does my desire to have more impact my ability or willingness to contribute to this church?



BOUNTIFULLY AND CHEERFULLY

2 Corinthians 9.6-7

Does my giving reflect the spiritual harvest I desire?

Am I happy to give?



PRACTICAL THOUGHTS

- ▶ Thoughtful and cheerful giving requires, in part, a knowledge of what is happening and what needs are present.
 - Leadership is crucial in sharing a vision for the future.
- ▶ To give bountifully with forethought requires that I assess my own situation and give accordingly.
 - Does my monthly entertainment budget shame my giving?



PRACTICAL THOUGHTS

- ▶ **God expects me to use the seed He has given me (2 Cor. 9.10f).**
 - **What I give plays a role in being righteous before God (10).**
 - **Giving opens the door to more giving (11).**
 - **My giving leads other people closer to God (11).**
- ▶ **Most of us are ready to act... but will we act?**

