



Under Construction: Building the People of God The Office: Finances/Stewardship

Text: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

- ❖ Read, meditate on, and pray through 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. Practice of meditating on Scripture:
 1. Read passage twice slowly and *listen* for a word or phrase that God might be planting in your mind.
 2. After you have found the word or the phrase that seems to touch you most deeply, spend some time gently repeating it so that it enters and effects you on your deepest level
 3. Offer the word or phrase as prayer to God. Have a conversation with God. The giver of the word, and offer up to Him what previously you may not have, give to Him what you feel he may be asking of you so that the reading is not only for information but for transformation.

Reflect: (Spend time with God thinking about these questions)

- ❖ What motivates you to give to a charity, church, or organization? What are you passionate about?
- ❖ What causes you not to give to a charity, church, or organization?

Interact: (Discuss the following questions with your group or some friends)

- ❖ 2 Corinthians 9: 7 says that our giving should be done...”not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” What kind of attitude should we have? Can you give without loving and can we love without giving? (John 3:16)
****As you look at the rest of these notes remember your heart and attitude is key. A steward of God’s finances is an integral but often forgotten part of our maturation in Christ. God will always bless you for your obedience, Luke 6:38.*
- ❖ In Proverbs 3:9 what does “first fruits” mean? According to this what should we plan on giving to God, our everything or what’s left over?
- ❖ Read Psalm 24:1. Who is in charge? If God is the owner, ask, what am I doing with what he owns?

- ❖ Read 2 Corinthians 8:13-15 and ask: How is this idea competing with that of our American culture? What are the implications of such a philosophy? What is God asking of us and how do we live it out?
- ❖ Read Matthew 25:14-30. Do you feel faithful in what God has given you?
- ❖ “The person who waits to do a great deal of good at once - will never do anything.” (Samuel Johnson) “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.” (Luke 16:10) Do you find yourself waiting until you have more to start giving? What does Luke mean that if you aren’t giving when you have little, you won’t give when you have more? Why?
- ❖ Who’s generosity is greater, ours’ or God’s?
- ❖ Malachi 3:10. If you do give faithfully, how has your faith grown? Do you believe God wants you to grow in your faith and in participation with His will? How will or does giving help this growth?

Apply: (Look for ways to apply at least one concept to your life)

- ❖ Spend some time alone and in silence and make a list of what you are passionate about. How can you begin to give out of those passions? What organizations are aligned with the goals or passions you believe God has given you?
- ❖ If you currently give a portion of your finances, devote time daily to pray that your gift will be used in accomplishing God’s dream in this world. Be an active participant through prayer instead of just giving of your finances.
- ❖ If you have been on the receiving end of someone else’s’ generosity then pray for them daily.
- ❖ Begin to develop a heart of gratitude to God. Thank Him for everything you receive as if it is a gift, because that’s what it truly is. Thank him for your paycheck, a visit to the ATM, meals, purchases, the clothes you put on, each step you take, nothing is so small to thank God for. This gratitude will start to develop a greater desire to be a better steward of God’s gifts.