

BIBLICAL ECONOMICS

THE MINISTRY AND ITS FINANCIAL INTEGRITY, [2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15](#)

B. The Motives for Giving Generously and Sacrificially, [2 Corinthians 9:8-15](#)

[2 Corinthians 9:8-15 \(NASB\)](#)

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;

⁹ as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."

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.

¹² For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

¹³ Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,

¹⁴ while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.

¹⁵ Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

THE EFFECT OF YOUR GIVING—[2 Corinthians 9:8-15](#)

God demonstrates His love for cheerful givers by giving them more grace and more opportunity to give. Here we have a promise that, if a person really wants to be generous, God will see that he is given the opportunity. Grace is used here as a synonym for resources. God is able to supply us with resources so that we will not only have sufficiency ourselves, but so we will be able to share what we have with others, and thus, have an abundance for every good work.

[2 Corinthians 9:8 \(NASB\)](#)

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."

He generously provides all that we need and helps us to be content with what we have. This is the meaning of the word "**sufficiency**."

It comes from the Greek word *autarkeia* {ow-tar'-ki-ah}. This was a favorite Stoic word. It does not describe the sufficiency of the man who possesses all kinds of things in abundance. It means **“independence.”** It describes the state of the man who has directed his life, not to amassing possessions, but to eliminating needs. It describes the man who has taught himself to be content with very little. It is obvious that such a man will be able to give far more to others because he wants so little for himself. It is so often true that we want so much for ourselves that there is nothing left to give to others. The man who has **“sufficiency”** is a contented man. Contentment produces a sense of satisfaction and sufficiency.

Philippians 4:11 (NASB)

¹¹“Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.”

1 Timothy 6:6 (NASB)

⁶“But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.”

As the Lord provides for all of our needs, we will have plenty left over to share with others in need. The righteous person who desires to give to the needs of others will not lack opportunity to do so because God will make this possible for him or her. Paul’s logic is identical to that of the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice [Matthew 6:33](#).

Matthew 6:33 (NASB)

³³“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Beloved, when we put God first in our lives, it will keep the egg off of our face. There is no shame in putting the Lord first and serving Him. When the temporal concerns of life are placed first, the Lord is usually left out of our lives. This is when we make choices that leave egg on our face. When the kingdom of God is placed first, God sees to it that the temporal needs are included and supplied. God sees to it that the generous giver will not suffer want. Instead, the Lord generously provides for those who give so that they can continue to do so. The righteous acts of the Christian who readily gives and supplies the needs of others have eternal value when it is for the purpose to glorify God.

Psalms 37:25 (NASB)

²⁵“I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread.”

Beloved, may we all live our lives in such a way where we honor the Lord Jesus Christ and avoid making foolish decisions that leave us with egg on our face. May He find us ready when He returns again and not ashamed at his coming.

1 John 2:28 (NASB)

²⁸“Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.”

In the closing verses of chapter nine, he reminds these Christians that the Lord is our source of blessings and prosperity. As we give to the Lord or to others, the Lord continues to supply our needs so that we can continue to be generous.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (NASB)

**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;
¹¹you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.”**

The effect of our giving becomes a ministry of encouragement to other believers according to [verse 12](#) when Paul speaks of “**the administration or ministry of this service.**” The consequences of such giving bring honor and glory to the Lord Jesus Christ as believer’s praise and thank God for His provision of their needs through His people. Bringing honor and glory to Jesus Christ should always be the goal of anything we do. The recipients of sacrificial giving will also pray for those who have given in obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit. These are Paul’s encouraging comments as chapter nine closes.

2 Corinthians 9:12-15 (NASB)

¹²“For **the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.
¹³Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,
¹⁴while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.
¹⁵Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”**

Beloved, when we bring honor to the Lord, especially by our generosity, such behavior will keep the egg off of your face. There is no shame in causing others to praise Him!

(2 Corinthians 9:8-15) Introduction: there are many reasons why believers should give to meet the desperate needs of the world. This passage covers the motives for giving generously and sacrificially.

1. **Motive 1: to be enriched more and more by God (v.8-11).**
2. **Motive 2: to meet needs and bring praise to God (v.12).**
3. **Motive 3: to prove one's loyalty to Christ (v.13).**
4. **Motive 4: to enhance prayer, love, and fellowship (v.14).**
5. **Motive 5: to praise God for His unspeakable gift (v.15).**

1. (2 Corinthians 9:8-11) Stewardship— Giving: the first motive for giving is to be enriched more and more by God.

2 Corinthians 9:8-11 (NASB)

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;

⁹as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."

¹⁰Now 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;

¹¹you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.”

The Christian is called upon to give sacrificially; in fact, he is to give all he is and has to meet the needs of a desperate world. This seems very risky and unwise to many, but it is the clear teaching of Scripture. **How could God expect us to give sacrificially, to give all beyond what we need for our own families?** The answer is simple, yet pointed.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NASB)

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.”

1. God is able to make all grace abound and overflow toward us. God is able to *pay us back* what we give. In fact, note exactly what God says and note the fullness of God's gifts in the words “**all**” and “**always**”:

In Scripture, the word “**grace**” refers to the favor and blessings of God, both spiritual and material. In this particular passage, the subject is primarily material blessings, although spiritual blessings are certainly included in the phrases “**all grace**” and “**all things**.” Therefore, what God says is a great encouragement to the sacrificial giver. God will more than return what the giver gives.

God will return...

- all grace
- all sufficiency
- all things

2. God expects the believer to give sacrificially so that the believer may abound to every *good work*. That is, God gives the believer more and more so that he can give more and more.

This is the point of the next verse: God gives to the believer so that...

- the believer can scatter God's blessings all abroad.
- the believer can give to the poor.
- the believer's righteousness (just deeds, goodness, kindness, gifts) may endure forever. Just think: whatever gifts the believer gives endure forever.

Note something else as well: note what God does for the sacrificial giver. The oldest and best Greek texts make this a declaration of fact and not a prayer. God ministers seed to the sower; therefore...

- God will minister and give bread to the sacrificial giver.
- God will multiply the gift given by the sacrificial giver.
- God will increase the fruits of the believer's just and good deeds or righteousness.
- God will enrich everything in all ways so that the believer can continue to give liberally and bountifully.

Thought 1. This is a striking truth: the believer receives so that he can give. This means that no believer has an excuse for hoarding and *keeping back* more than he needs. God did not give it to him to *keep back*. God gave it to the believer to meet the desperate needs of the world. This is an earth-shaking truth, for it means that all the believer has *is to be given*. It is not to be kept. He is only a channel through which God sends His blessings to the world.

To keep back more than what one needs is stealing—not only stealing from the desperate of the world, but stealing from God.

John 10:10 (NASB)

¹⁰“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.”

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NASB)

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.”

Ephesians 3:20 (NASB)

²⁰“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.”

Thought 2. Giving sacrificially depends upon one thing: believing, truly believing, that God is able to take care of us—that God will provide the necessities of life and bless abundantly.

Matthew 6:33 (NASB)

³³“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Philippians 4:10-13 (NASB)

¹⁰“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned *before*, but you lacked opportunity.

¹¹Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

¹²I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

¹³I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:19 (NASB)

¹⁹“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

1 Peter 5:7 (NASB)

⁷“Casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”