

**SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FOR 12/20/09**  
**2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15**

This passage concludes Paul's discussion of the collection for the Jerusalem saints. As he gives his final admonition on this subject, Paul turns to farming metaphors to make the point that giving requires faith, expectation, a generous, cheerful attitude, and earnestness. When giving is done in this manner, there is always a reward on the other side, both for the giver and the recipient. Going into the holiday season, a time to celebrate the priceless gift that God has given to all of us in His Son Jesus, we have much to reflect upon.

**Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

**2 Corinthians 9:6 - 15** <sup>6</sup> Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> 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; <sup>9</sup> as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER." <sup>10</sup> 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; <sup>11</sup> you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

**1. According to 2 Cor. 9:6, Paul cites the Old Testament principle that the more we give, the more we receive in return. Can you think of examples in your own life where this has proven to be true?**

**2. 2 Cor. 9:7 says that God loves a cheerful giver. Although the New Testament has much to say on the subject of God's love, this is the only place in the New Testament where the construction "God loves . . ." is used. Why do you think this is such a necessary point for Paul to make?**

**3. How would you characterize your own attitude towards giving?**

**Read Psalm 112:9**

**(Septuagint) Psalm 112:9** He has dispersed abroad; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures for evermore: his horn shall be exalted with honor.

**4. 2 Cor. 9:9 quotes Ps. 112:9. Why do you think Paul relates righteousness with giving?**

**Read Isaiah 55:10**

**Isaiah 55:10** "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

**5. Is it easy or difficult for you to trust God to supply all your needs? How have you experienced God's provision? Have you ever felt like He has failed to provide for you?**

**6. In 2 Cor. 9:15, Paul concludes on a note of gratitude: gratitude for what has given us. What are you grateful for right now? Take some time to express this thanksgiving to God.**