

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **September 23, 2018** sermon, "Sowing and Reaping." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 9:1-15) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE PARTICIPATE IN ACTS OF GRACE (GIVING), NOTE . . .

1. The cheerful giver God respects (6-7)
 - a. The act of grace in view is not the tithe, which is required and proportionate, but "a willing gift," which is over-and-above the tithe.
 - b. God loves the cheerful giver, who gives more than the tithe, just because we want to.
 - c. Sow sparingly, reap sparingly. Sow generously, reap generously.
 - d. Consider Matthew 6:3. While giving generously, it is wise to also give quietly.
2. The faithful nature God exhibits (8-10)
 - a. While considering "above-and-beyond" giving, God is our perfect example.
 - b. Psalm 112:9: God has given of his riches "freely" and "to the poor."
3. The thankful spirit God values (11-15)
 - a. When we cheerfully give, trusting in God's faithfulness, he will always provide.
 - b. He has blessed us in every way so that we can give to others in every way.
 - c. And this causes thankfulness to God!
 - i. Thanksgiving to God from the ones receiving the gifts.
 - ii. Thanksgiving to God from the ones who offer the gifts.
 - d. God did not "play it safe" (hold back of the best he could offer). Neither should we.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: If we sow sparingly (disobey God in the area of the tithe, or "play it safe" as consider giving more than the tithe), we will reap sparingly. The Macedonians begged for the privilege of giving even while they themselves had little. Discuss your own heart's attitude toward "cheerfully" giving more than the tithe.
2. Based on #1, above: Some of us live our lives with such tight margins that we cannot imagine giving, above-the-tithe, and "cheerfully." What kinds of changes would you have to make in your life to get to a place of this kind of generosity? How might resources such as "Financial Peace University" help you?
3. Based on #2, above: God has "freely given" to you, and continues to supply your daily needs. You have learned that God is faithful! Discuss God's daily provisions for your spiritual and physical needs. Are you trusting him for your current supply?
4. Based on #3, above: Thankfulness makes every other virtue shine to the fullest, because it shows all the people in our lives that we know God will supply, and that we know that we do not deserve it. Give yourself a grade on the "thankfulness" scale. How could you improve your grade today? How can thankfulness improve your "cheerfulness" in giving?