

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Stewardship Sunday

These questions are for the **February 14, 2023**, sermon, "Abounding in every good work." Please read the sermon passage (2 Cor 9:6-15) together out loud.

Passage Outline

Principles for managing God's resources . . .

1. The foundation of giving. (12-15)
 - a. We give because of God's grace: he gives to us. (14-15)
 - b. We give because of the gospel of Christ: Jesus is our Lord. (13)
 - c. We give to supply a need. (12)
2. The substance of giving. (8-11)
 - a. We give money, time and our spiritual gifts (ourselves).
 - b. God makes his gifts abound to us so that we will overflow in "every good work." (8)
3. The givers. (7)
 - a. "Each one" must give "as he has decided in his heart."
 - b. There is an appeal to the inner person, to the individual mindset/attitude.
 - c. In this passage, "giving" is in view, which is a gift over-and-above the ten percent tithe.
4. The results of giving. (9:6, 10-15)
 - a. The one who gives sparingly will sow sparingly.
 - b. The one who gives bountifully will sow bountifully.
 - i. God will multiply future "seed" for sowing. (10)
 - ii. God's love for the saints is put on display. (7, 12)
 - iii. God's glory (fame and 'heaviness') is put on display. (13)
 - iv. God receives many thanksgivings. (11)
 - v. The submission of givers shows the transforming power of the gospel. (13)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: We do not give because God is lacking money or time or the ability to complete the great commission. We give because God is the first and great Giver, and to become like him. Talk about this concept: "we cannot become more like God if we withhold or hoard his gifts to ourselves." Or, "We become more like God as we learn to give away what he first gave to us."
2. Based on #2, above: We identified three specific possessions which must be managed for God: time, efforts (gifts) and money. Which is most difficult for you to give freely? What have you learned about God as you have learned to tithe and give of yourself?
3. Based on #4, above: Faithful giving within the church is a clear and irrefutable evidence of God's goodness and grace. The provision of needs satisfies needs and produces thanksgiving. How has your family experienced the grace of a generous / healthy church?
4. Based on #4, above: Generous giving proves gospel-centered submission. (13) As we follow Jesus, we surrender everything (time, efforts, money) to him because he is our Lord. Talk about the correlation between generosity and submission.