

God's indescribable gift

Whatever we do in life has roots. Sometimes those roots are bad, leading us to do bad deeds. Other times those roots are good, leading us to do good deeds. When our roots are in God, our deeds will always be good and will reflect His life and character that permeates our beings in the way that the life of a vine runs through the branches of the vine bringing about good fruit. God is a generous God, and if we are rooted in Him, His generosity will overflow through our lives.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

1) We can never outgive God

- 2 Corinthians 9:6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.
- 2 Corinthians 9:8 God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
- In the same way a farmer sows in faith and with confidence that he will reap a harvest that will increase his future crops, feed his family, and that he can sell to bring in a substantial income, so our giving is an act of faith with the confidence that God is able to give us far abundantly more than we sow.
- Our lack of generosity is often based in our lack of faith in who God is and what He's able to do.
- God is a good God who wants to pour His goodness out onto His people, in fact, onto everyone
 - Matthew 5:44-45 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.
 - Proverbs 11:24-25 One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.
- God is able to provide for all our needs
 - Philippians 4:18-19 I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.
- Does this mean that giving and being generous is a way to get an income? No, it isn't. Although God gives returns on what we sow, He also expects us to work to generate our own income.
 - Deuteronomy 8:15-18 He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

2) Generosity is an act of gratitude to God

- 2 Corinthians 9:11-12 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.
- God acts generously to us causing us to be generous to others that brings praise and thanksgiving back to Him.
 - Hence, the focus is on God and not on us and how good and generous we are
- David recognised that everything that we have comes from God and that He was to be praised after the Israelites gave generously for the building of the temple
 - 1 Chronicles 29:9 The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly.
 - 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, LORD, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.
 - 1 Chronicles 29:14 "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

3) God's indescribable gift

- 2 Corinthians 9:12-15 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!
- Our generosity is not rooted in God's example of generosity, but in His ultimate generosity of His indescribable gift – the giving of His only Son to die on a cross for us that we won't perish, but will have everlasting life.
 - John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
 - Romans 5:8 God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- As Jesus is God, God didn't send someone apart from Himself, but God gave of Himself to come and die for us.
 - This is incomprehensible; that's why it's called His indescribable gift.
 - God gave His all for us that we may give our all for Him.
- He gave His life that we may receive all the eternal blessings found in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - In His gift we receive so much more from Him than we could ever think or imagine.
- Through His gift of His life given for us we are transformed to be a blessing to others bringing many expressions of thanks to God.