

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

Giving

Who benefits most when you give to others? I'm thinking that the obvious answer is probably wrong. **What's the obvious answer?** The obvious answer is that the recipient of my gift benefits most by what I give to them. **You are right, that is the obvious and wrong answer.** Why is that? **You tell me.** I don't know. **Oh, I think you can figure this out. Tell me what you know about giving. Tell me what you know about me.** I know that you are a giver. You came into the world as an act of giving. You humbled and gave yourself fully so that I could have a new life and relationship with you. Your giving made it so I could be adopted into your family and become your child. Your giving made it possible for my sins to be forgiven. Your giving made it so I will be able to come and live forever in heaven with you. **That's right, I am a giver. Do you want to become like me? Do you want to go and do what I did? Do you want to do what is pleasing in my sight?** Yes Lord, I want to be like you in every way. Yes Lord, I want to go and do what you did. Yes Lord, I want to do what is pleasing in your sight. **So, when you give, you become like me in all these ways.** Yes, that's true. **Now, does whatever gift you can give to someone seem as beneficial to them as it is for you to become a giver?** No, not at all. **That's right.**

Let's talk more about giving. Alright. **In response to my giving myself to you, what have you done?** I have given myself to you. **That's right. We could say that there has been good fruit because I gave myself to you, couldn't we?** Yes, we could and not only to me, but to all those who have come to believe in you. **That's true. Do you want your life to bear fruit for my kingdom and bring glory to my name?** Yes, I do. **How will you bear fruit for my kingdom and bring glory to my name?** I will bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name by becoming a giver. **That's right. Is that what you will do?** Yes Lord, I will become a cheerful giver. **That will be good and pleasing to me.**

Lord, in the past I ignored deciding in my heart and making a commitment to give to others. When I gave, I gave reluctantly and under compulsion. Forgive me. Help me now to be a cheerful giver who gives joyfully to you and to all those who are in need. Amen

Heart *A Cheerful Giver*

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

NIV 2 Corinthians 9:7

Heart *A Cheerful Giver*

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

ESV 2 Corinthians 9:7

Heart *Who Gives Cheerfully*

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

NLT 2 Corinthians 9:7

Heart *A Cheerful Giver*

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

NKJV 2 Corinthians 9:7

Heart *A Cheerful Giver*

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

NRSV 2 Corinthians 9:7

Heart *Giver Delights In Giving*

I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.

MSG 2 Corinthians 9:7

Heart *A Cheerful Giver*

Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, "prompt to do it") giver [whose heart is in his giving].

AMP 2 Corinthians 9:7

Heart *Cheerful Givers*

Everyone must make up his own mind as to how much he should give. Don't force anyone to give more than he really wants to, for cheerful givers are the ones God prizes.

TLB 2 Corinthians 9:7

Heart *A Cheerful Giver*

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

NASB 2 Corinthians 9:7

Heart *Gives Happily*

Each one should give as you have decided in your heart to give. You should not be sad when you give, and you should not give because you feel forced to give. God loves the person who gives happily.

NCV 2 Corinthians 9:7

A Cheerful Giver

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Heart – 2 Corinthians 9:7

In Context: Read 2 Corinthians 9

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, in the past I ignored making a decision about giving to others. When I gave I gave reluctantly and under compulsion. Forgive me. Help me now to be a cheerful giver who gives joyfully to you and to others in need. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you taken time to make a decision about what to give to the Lord and the needs of others?

What have you decided in your heart to give to the Lord and the needs of others?

When has it been difficult to follow through and give what you decided in your heart to give?

How does God regard your gifts if they are given with a reluctant heart and under compulsion?

What joy have you had in being able to give to the work of the ministry and the needs of others?

When have you given sparingly and received back sparingly?

When have you given generously and received back generously?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Make a decision in your heart about what you will joyfully give to the Lord and to the needs of others.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that as you give to the work of the ministry and the needs of others you will receive back generously.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group the decision you have made to give to the Lord and the needs of others.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you decide in your heart to give generously to others just as the Lord has given generously to you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I have decided in my heart to give generously to others just as you have given generously to me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I give generously to others today as I follow and serve you?
