

## 2 Corinthians 9 God Gives Most

For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints; 2 for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, namely, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them.

3 But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared; 4 otherwise if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we not to speak of you will be put to shame by this confidence.

5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness.

6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

8 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; 9 as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."

10 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; 11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

12 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. 13 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,

14 while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God's character

Paul's observations and insights

1. To be 'superfluous' is to represent pointlessness, a waste of time and energy.

2. I have always found reading what someone says, has more of an impact on me, than if they say it to me.

3. What is the 'ministry to the saints'?
4. How does Paul know? And what is it to 'know something'?
5. Paul knew their readiness meant - a passionate willingness to give themselves to the task.
6. He had been boasting about this church to the Macedonians.
7. He is reflecting on what they said to him last year, but is he beginning to question himself?
8. Why do we question ourselves?
9. How can the zeal of one-person steer the hearts of others?
10. Paul is preparing the way, is this a lack of faith in their promise of a gift?
11. How embarrassing it would be having boasted of 'a gift' - they turn up and there is no gift.
12. To be 'put to shame' is to lose credibility.
13. How often do we let ourselves down through broken promises?
14. To 'urge' is to put someone on the spot. Do you find that hard?
15. Paul calls it a 'previously promised, bountiful gift' – that is four representations of 'urging'!
16. Why do people covet?
17. More urging – 'now, this I say'!
18. Someone who sows sparingly, will reap sparingly. Is this true?
19. Someone who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Is this true?
20. Why does God love a cheerful giver?
21. To do 'just as he has purposed', is to have the freedom to do and not to do!
22. What is the difference between deciding in our mind and deciding in our hearts?
23. 'Grudgingly' is a reluctance to do something.
24. 'Compulsion' is being forced to do something.
25. Living a life at God's table, is very different to not living a life at God's table. What is the difference?
26. For 'grace to abound', is to embrace the blessings God has made available.
27. The increase of the harvest is in direct proportion to the seed sown.
28. A 'harvest of your righteousness', is the sanctification of your soul.
29. This comes as we die to self - die to all we were and live for Him - all we are now in Christ.
30. As God enriches our lives rejoicing will bring forth fruit.
31. The ministry of this service is serving others and bringing thanksgiving to God.
32. The proof God is looking for in our sincere repentance, is a life that is dedicated to do His will and fulfilling His purposes.
33. Why is it important to be thankful to God outwardly?
34. Obedience to our confession is the demonstration of a life at work in Gods kingdom.
35. Giving is an incredible blessing; it stabilises our priorities.

36. 'To yearn', is to strongly desire with all that you are.

37. Grace is self-renewing; it is an ever-flowing stream of refreshing.