

Overflowing Joy - Outline

June 10, 2018

...they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. (2 Corinthians 8:2, NLT)

How did money work in the early church?

1. There were people who gave regularly for the needs of the ministry.
2. There were periodic collections for the needs of the poor.
3. There were periodic collections for the needs of other Christians from other cities.

As time went on, people began to ask questions such as...
How much should I give?
How often should I give?

So Paul devoted some time to answering their questions.

Generosity begins in the heart

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." (2 Corinthians 9:7, NLT)

God has blessed us with 100% of what we possess.

But I want it to be a willing gift, not one given grudgingly. (2 Corinthians 9:5, NLT)

God wants to partner with us in generous giving.

For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. (2 Corinthians 9:10a, NLT)

God promises to take care of those who give generously

And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. (2 Corinthians 9:8, NLT)

Generosity involves an intentional plan

1. Priority Giving

On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once. (1 Corinthians 16:2, NLT)

Priority giving...

is saying "thank you" to God

is saying "generosity is a priority in my life"

2. Percentage Giving

...you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned.... (1 Corinthians 16:2, NLT)

Percentage giving...

gives us a goal or a target to aim for
keeps fear from entering the equation

start with a planned percentage and watch what God begins to do with it!

3. Progressive Giving

For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. (2 Corinthians 9:10-11a, NLT)

Progressive giving...

stretches our faith

strengthens our faith and trust in God

4. Prompted Giving

sometimes God has unique, one-time needs that he puts on your heart

Concluding thoughts

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