

# God's Inexpressible Gift!

2 Corinthians 8:7-9; 9:6-15

## 10 Points of Appeal – for Sacrificial Giving and Steadfast Service in the Church of Jesus Christ

As proof of their mutual love for Christ and desire to serve each other.

**1. Paul is appealing to them on the basis of a *Divine PRINCIPLE* (v6)**

*(v6) The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

**2. Paul is appealing to them on the basis of their *Heart PURPOSE* (v7)**

*(v7) Each one must give as he has made up his mind/as he has purposed in his heart (NAS), not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

**God desires the heart to be behind every service and every act of giving.**

**3. Paul is appealing to them on the basis of *Promised PROSPERITY* (v8)**

*(v8) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound/have an abundance (NAS) in every good work.*

**4. Paul is appealing to them on the basis of *Righteous PERPETUITY* (v9)**

*(v9) As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."*

**Sow to the things that will profit you eternally.**

**5. Paul is appealing to them on the basis of *Promised PROVISION* (v10)**

*(v10) 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.*

## PART TWO

**6. Paul is appealing to them on the basis of *Promised PRODUCTIVITY* (v11)**

*(v11) You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.*

“For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God” (2 Corinthians 4:15).

“*you will be enriched*” is in the *passive voice*, which means it will be done *to you*.

## 7. Paul is appealing to them on the basis of **Increased PARTICIPATION (v12)**

(v12) *For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.*

**Giving thanks to God is one of the noblest activities of mankind; certainly, of Christians.**

“For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him” (Romans 1:21).

“Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High” (Psalm 50:14).

“The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!” (Psalm 50:23).

“All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name” (Psalm 86:9).

Regenerate Jews would soon be *thanking God* for the abundant generosity of the Gentiles

This is what *giving*—this is what unselfish *service* to others—causes.

“*overflowing/abundant*” Gk *perisseuo*; to super abound (in quantity or quality), be in excess.

“Let the rich man bestow help on the poor and let the poor give thanks to God, that He gave him one to supply his needs” (Clement of Rome).

## 8. Paul is appealing to them on the basis of **Glorifying PROOF (v13)**

(v13) *By their approval/proof (NAS) of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others,*

“*contribution/sharing NKJ*” from Gk *koinonia*; ‘fellowship; partnership; community.’

## 9. Paul is appealing to them on the basis of **Unifying PRAYER (v14)**

(v14) *while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you.*

“Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ‘You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them’” (Acts 11:1-4).

“If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?’ When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, ‘Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life’” (Acts 11:17-18).

“But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:17-18).

“The prayer of the poor is the reward of the rich.”

## **10. Finally, Paul is appealing to them on the basis of *Everlasting PRAISE!* (v15)**

(v15) *Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!*

No words can properly express the greatness of the gift thus bestowed on man. It is higher than the mind can conceive; higher than language can express.

**The Saviour is a *gift* to mankind.** This is how He is represented in Scripture. He gave—*Himself!*

“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us” (Isaiah 9:6).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him” (John 3:16-17).

“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:9-11).

**Serving and sacrificial giving is how Christianity was born; and this is how it continues to spread.**

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him” (John 12:23-26).

We are never more like God than when we die to ourselves, serve and give, that others may live seeing Christ in us, and glorifying God through an abundance of *thanksgiving*.

"THANKS BE UNTO GOD FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT"