

4. Consider *sowing* and *reaping* in 9:6-11. It has been suggested that the way we practice generosity indicates whether we see God as a *taker* or a *giver*. What are the marks of a taker mindset according to verses 5-7? What are the qualities of a giver mindset?

In what ways is generosity like sowing? What is the harvest we should expect?

#### Living It Out

1. Paul does not motivate the Corinthians by dwelling on the need in Jerusalem. Instead, he focuses on the extravagant grace of God as the source of motivation. Which more powerfully affects your generosity – need, or the act of worship?
2. These two chapters make it clear that the grace of a generous God should produce gratitude and generosity in his people. John makes this point with great power in 1 John 3:16-18. How does our generosity reveal our spiritual condition?
3. Giving is not just about money. How do we develop a *lifestyle* of generosity? What would be some marks of that?
4. How can we help one another develop a more generous spirit?

#### Looking Ahead

Next week we will be looking at a variety of passages.

## Generous Living 2 Corinthians 8, 9

Gary Inrig

May 17, 2009

*“You have only what you give. It’s by spending yourself that you become rich.” Isabelle Allende*

### **I. Generosity is a product of spiritual health, not financial wealth** (verses 8:1-5)

### **II. Generosity is our grateful response to our generous God**

## Koinonia Small Groups

Generous Living

Week of May 17

2 Corinthians 8, 9

### Getting Connected

What does generosity look like? When have *you* experienced generosity either in giving or receiving?

As you think back on the sermon, was there a principle or idea that you found clarifying, challenging or confusing?

### III. Generosity is a lifestyle, not an event *(verses 9:6-11)*

#### Digging Deeper

1. The giving of the Macedonian Christians, described in 8:1-5, is a remarkable evidence of true generosity. What challenges you in their response, both to adversity and the opportunity to give sacrificially to people they had never met?

It is extraordinary for people to *plead* to be allowed to participate in “the privilege of sharing” (verse 4). What might have caused such a response?

Generosity is connected with joy in verse 2, as well as in 9:7. How are they related?

2. What are the truths about grace and generosity that are seen in the Lord Jesus, according to 8:9, as well as in God the Father, in 9:15?

3. What principles about giving are found in 8:11-13?

### Conclusion