



Pledge Sunday 24 Jan 2021

2 Cor 9:6-11

Small Group Notes

The sermon began by contrasting two childhood stories. One that showed great selfishness, and the other that showed great self-giving.

- Looking back on your childhood can you think of any similar examples?
- What, from childhood or growing up, might teach you to be more selfish, or self-giving?
- When you find that your heart is too selfish, what can you do to correct this?
- How do we strike a balance between giving and enjoyment? To what degree is it appropriate to save for retirement?

Read the entire passage (2 Cor 9:6-11).

- What stands out to you from this passage? What questions do you have?

Our passage today starts with a natural principle that we can understand.

Read 2 Cor 9:6

- Where do you see this principle at work in the world?

It is a clear principle, but then Paul takes it in a very different direction.
That just as God blesses a seed so that it produces more than is put into the ground,
so God likes to bless people that are generous so that they have more to give.
God loves to be generous through his people.

- When have you seen this spiritual blessing at work? Can this be tested? Is this always the case?

The big question for us should be: God, what sort of giver do you want me to be?

Read 2 Cor 9:6-7

- What sort of giver should we be, or not be, from these verses? Why do you think Paul chooses these things to say?
- Why do we find this difficult?

When our hearts are right, a beautiful thing happens.

Read 2 Cor 9:8

Notice the word ‘all’ in verse 8. The word ‘every’, is the same as the word ‘all’ in Greek.

- What do you see in these terms to describe the scope of God’s blessing?

Christians, and how God works through them, are a powerful force for good in this world.

- When have you taken notice of this, or seen this in a clear way?

Come back to where we began. As a child we all likely had two impulses within each of us.

- As you think about your life, over the years which is winning?

God calls us to live generously, with our hearts focused on others and the difference we can make.

- How can we be more giving and generous?
- How can we be wise in our giving and generosity?
- When is giving unwise?

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