

Serving with Cadence International

Sneller Salute



Equipping others to teach

JULY 2024



Europe Field Conference



Friday worship



Ministry outing



Patio roof complete

CONSIDER 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15 (NIV):

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Rebecca and I recently spoke about this passage at our European staff conference, and we want to share some of our reflections with you.

The passage in 2 Corinthians 9 applies just as well to life and hospitality ministry as it does to financial giving. Much like the treasure principle in Matthew 6, this passage isn’t only about money: It is about the heart. Here are some principles from this broader perspective. First, *it is not simply about generous giving but generous living*. Paul wasn’t concerned about the gift itself but the giver. He cared more about their heart condition than how much they contributed.

Just before this passage, Paul makes it clear that the contribution should be a generous gift, not grudgingly given. Along those lines, he provides an agricultural proverb similar to the Parable of the Sower. Personally, I have always struggled with this generous and reckless sowing. I would prefer a more methodical, conservative approach and efficient effort. That said, God, as the generous Sower, reveals the poverty of my heart. Prejudging people before investing lacks faith and is unloving. True generosity, on the other hand, cannot be measured by an amount of time, money, or effort. *The true test of generosity is whether it is done with joy, faith, and love.*

Following the principle found in verse 7, generous living is also a matter of conscience in how we choose to share our lives. We each must prayerfully decide the shape of our

lives. We must not give out of compulsion or a lack of cheer, which cheapens or compromises the gift, and we must avoid comparison to others. **Generous living requires joy just as much as it does intentionality and thoughtfulness.**

Our joy, faith, and love flow from the generous grace we have received from God. It is all grace and is to be given freely. Sometimes, it's easy to slip into a "scarcity mindset"—with money, time, and energy—but Scripture says we have all we need to abound in every good work (verse 8). In the Greek, there is a repetition of the same word stem "pan" ("all" in English) appearing five times: "God is able to make **all** grace abound to you, so that having **always** in **all** things **all** you need so that you may abound in **all** good work."



Worship at the PWOC Europe-wide retreat

summer book club

JUL 12- AUG 23

Book \$14

Discussions on JUL 26 and AUG 23

Generous living is done out of joy and in faith. Sometimes, we slip into faulty self-sufficiency, but this is all about the true sufficiency of God's grace. As we see in verse 9, this generous living based on His grace will last forever. Such righteousness is not dependent on our work but on God's work, which is why it continues for eternity. **Generous living that is done in faith endures.** In verse 10, Paul points out how generous living trusts the Provider for everything. Generous living is not a performative service to people but a faith-filled submission to God. Reading on to verse 11, such generous living bears witness resulting in thanksgiving to God.

Ultimately, generous living is faith expressing itself through love. It is not done on one's own strength. It is not a service with strings attached. It does not stroke one's ego.

Generous living is a joyful, faithful, and loving gift. We can do a lot in life, but . . .

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all the mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (ESV).



PWOC board meeting

If our generous living is not done out of joy, faith, and love, it doesn't matter and won't last. This witness will matter far more than what we can do. All of our potential pales in comparison to the generous life Paul describes. **May we all lead generous lives of joy, faith, and love.**

Much love and God bless,
Deric Sneller
 (on behalf of the Sneller family)



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