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2 Corinthians 9:6-11 "The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. Each one of you should give just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, because God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace overflow to you so that because you have enough of everything in every way at all times, you will overflow in every good work. Just as it is written, 'He has scattered widely, He has given to the poor; His righteousness remains forever.' Now God who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your supply of seed and will cause the harvest of your righteousness to grow. You will be enriched in every way so that you may be generous on every occasion."

THREE STEPS TO GROW IN GENEROSITY

1. GROW IN GRATITUDE.

2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each one of you should give just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, because God loves a cheerful giver."

Paying your tithe is obligatory, but generosity is voluntary.

Generosity is not based on ABILITY; it's based on willingness.

Mark 12:41-44 "Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, 'I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on."

Deuteronomy 15:10 "Give generously to the poor and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to."

A grateful heart is a generous heart.

1 John 4:19 "We love because He first loved us."

2. GROW IN GRACE.

2 Corinthians 9:8 "And God is able to make all grace overflow to you so that because you have enough of everything in every way at all times, you will overflow in every good work."

It is GOD who enables us to be generous.

He gives us the GRACE to grow in generosity.

1 Timothy 6:17 "God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment."

James 1:17 "Every good and perfect gift is from God. It comes down from the Father."

2 Corinthians 8:9 "You know the **generous grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty He could make you rich."

Titus 3:6 "He **generously poured** out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior."

1 John 3:1 "See what great love the Father has **lavished on us**, that we should be called children of God!"

The closer you come to God, the more generous you become.

Luke 6:35-36 (The Message Bible) "Help and give without expecting a return. You'll never - I promise - regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously..."

3. GROW IN GENEROSITY.

2 Corinthians 9:11 "You will be enriched in every way so that you may be generous on every occasion."

• GREATER GOOD FOR YOURSELF.

Psalm 58:11 "There truly is a reward for those who live for God; surely there is a God who judges justly here on earth."

Proverbs 22:9 "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor."

Psalm 112:5 "Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely."

GREATER GOOD FOR OTHERS.

Acts 20:35 "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Proverbs 11:24-25 "One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

Luke 19:26 "To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given."

GREAT GLORY FOREVER.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 "Teach those who are rich in this world...to use their

money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life."

Matthew 6:19-20, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each one of you should give just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, because God loves a cheerful giver."