

2 Corinthians Chapter 9

1. Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you;

A. Now concerning the ministering to the saints,

1. ministering- Gr. **diakonia**- *serving*

2. saints- Gr. **hagios**- *set apart ones, holy ones*

a. There are times you can be in need even though you are a saint. God shall supply the needs for His saints. [Phil. 4:19](#)

B. it is superfluous for me to write to you

1. superfluous- Gr. **perissos**

a. It was not needed to write about serving the saints because they had a habit of doing so or Paul again is speaking by faith!

2. write- Gr. **grapho**

2. for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority.

A. for I know your willingness,

1. willingness- Gr. **prothumia**- *promptness, readiness, eagerness of mind, willingness*

B. about which I boast of you to the Macedonians,

1. boast- Gr. **kauchaomai**

a. This is not an evil boasting, but it was rooted in what God has done in them.

2. Macedonians

a. This was the region that the Philippian and Thessalonian churches were.

C. that Achaia was ready a year ago;

1. Achaia

a. Corinth was the capital of Achaia.

2. ready- Gr. **paraskeuazo**- *to prepare one's self, put one's self in readiness*

a. What caused the cessation of this offering is not known. Again, Paul might be speaking by faith here.

D. and your zeal has stirred up the majority

1. zeal- Gr. **zelos**

2. stirred up- Gr. **erethizo**- *to stir up, excite, stimulate, to provoke*

3. **majority-** Gr. **pleion-** *greater in quantity*

- a. The majority were stirred up, but not all. This brings out that no matter what you do or say, some people are not going to be stirred up to action. You couldn't stir them up with a kitchen aid blender! Some people are thoroughly mixed up and set like concrete.
- b. Also, what stirs up one person may not stir up another person.

3. **Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this respect, that, as I said, you may be ready;**

A. **Yet I have sent the brethren,**

1. **sent-** Gr. **pempo**
2. **brethren-** Gr. **adelphos**

a. The brethren referred to in [2Co 8:18](#), [2Co 8:22-23](#)

B. **lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this respect,**

1. **boasting-** Gr. **kauchema**
2. **vain-** Gr. **kenoo-** *empty, without purpose*

C. **that, as I have said,**

D. **you may be ready**

1. **ready-** Gr. **paraskeuazo-** *to prepare one's self, put one's self in readiness*
 - a. Unfortunately, we don't know how the Corinthians responded to Paul's appeal in this letter. There is no 3 Corinthians!

4. **lest if *some* Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting.**

A. **lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared,**

1. **Macedonians**

a. These would be those from the church of Philippi or Thessalonica.

2. **come-** Gr. **erchomai**

3. **find-** Gr. **heurisko**

a. People will end up finding us in the state of how we really are. Will this cause us to be ashamed or with a peaceful confidence?

4. **unprepared**- Gr. *aparaskeuastos*

B. **we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting.**

1. **ashamed**- Gr. *kataischuno*

a. It is not a good feeling letting someone down that really believes in us and speaks well of us to everyone.

2. **confident**- Gr. *hupostasis*- *ground, basis, foundation*

a. We should have a firm foundation for boasting which is God's genuine work in us and others. Boasting that is not on this solid foundation is empty boasting.

3. **boasting**- Gr. *kauchesis*

5. **Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which *you had* previously promised, that it may be ready as *a matter of* generosity and not as a grudging obligation.**

A. **Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time,**

1. **thought**- Gr. *hegeomai*- *to consider, deem, account*

2. **necessary**- Gr. *anagkaios*

3. **exhort**- Gr. *parakaleo*- *encourage*

4. **brethren**- Gr. *adelphos*

1. The brethren referred to in [2Co 8:18](#), [2Co 8:22-23](#)

5. **go ahead of time**- Gr. *proerchomai*

B. **and prepare your generous gift beforehand,**

1. **prepare**- Gr. *prokatarizo*

2. **generous gift**- Gr. *eulogia*- *blessing, benefit*

a. This Greek word is the same word translated as “blessing”. We get the English word “eulogy”- (lit. to speak well of) from this word.

C. **which you had previously promised,**

1. **promised**- Gr. *prokataggello*- *to preannounce in the sense of to promise*

D. **that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation**

1. **ready**- Gr. *hetoimos*- *ready, prepared*

a. In the last letter Paul exhorted that the saints to lay aside

money each week as they were prospered so that offerings would not be needed to collect the money. [1 Cor. 16:1-4](#)

b. Paul sent these brothers to Corinth to collect what had been laid aside already.

2. **matter of generosity**- Gr. **eulogia**- *blessing, benefit*

3. **grudging obligation**- Gr. **pleonexia**- *a gift exacted by importunity and conferred with grudging, a hard-wrung gift, extortion, some advantage which one possesses over another; an inordinate desire of riches, covetousness*

a. Money given out of manipulation, extortion, or pressure is not a blessing, nor is it blessed. Only when money is given willingly from a heart of grace does an offering become a real blessing.

6. But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

A. But this I say:

1. He did not want to make this offering something that was forced, but he did have something to say to them by way of an exhortation about how they gave.

B. He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,

1. **sows**- Gr. **speiro**- *to sow seed*

a. This brings out that our finances when they are given into the kingdom of God become seed that will work for the kingdom in salvation, healing, and deliverance, but also work back into our lives good measure, pressed down, shaken together men will give back into our bosom that we can turn around and do it again! [Luk 6:38](#)

2. **sparingly**- Gr. **pheidomenos**- *stingily*

a. If a farmer wants a big harvest, he knows he must plant a lot of seed. This is not hard to understand, but we often tend to shy away in fear from giving large amounts thinking we will be diminished.

3. **reap**- Gr. **therido**

a. Many of us have been taught to sow in faith, but not many have been taught to reap in faith as well. We need to believe for a return on our giving.

b. If a farmer plants a lot of seed and has a big crop in the field it will do him no good if he does not harvest [reap] it.

C. and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully

1. bountifully- Gr. **epi eulogia-** *on top of blessings*

a. This word speaks of a heaped-up blessing.

b. This brings out a fact that many blessings God has for us can only be reaped by sowing what He first gave to us in grace.

c. He who sows blessing will reap a greater blessing.

[Pro 11:24](#); [Pro 11:25](#)

7. So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

A. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart,

1. give- not in Greek- omit

2. purposes- Gr. **proaireomai-** *to choose in advance*

a. We should come to church ready to give, not think about it as an afterthought or give by a religious duty.

3. heart- Gr. **kardia**

B. not grudgingly or of necessity;

1. grudgingly- Gr. **ek lupe-** *out of sorrow, pain, grief, annoyance, affliction*

a. It pains some people to give money. If it pains you to give in an offering, then keep your money, you will need it! God wants you cheerfully give.

b. Some people are annoyed when an offering is received. We should rejoice that it is an opportunity to further God's kingdom and increase at the same time.

2. necessity- Gr. **anagke**

C. for God loves a cheerful giver

1. loves- Gr. **agapao**

2. cheerful- Gr. **hilaros-** *cheerful, joyous, prompt to do anything*

a. We get our English word "hilarious" from this Greek word. We should be hilarious givers! This word also brings out the idea of being prompt in action and not being dilatory about it. If God puts it on our heart to give to someone or some ministry, we should be quick to act on it. Someone might be in great need for our immediate response to the Lord.

3. **giver**- Gr. **dotes**

- a. A giver is not someone who gives. No, a giver is much more than that. A giver is one in the heart and it manifests in giving. A giver is the same thing as a sower. God gives seed to the sower. [2 Cor. 9:10](#) Notice, you can be sower before you ever have seed to sow. You can be a giver before you have finances to give. God will get seed and finances to a sower and a giver.

8. **And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.**

A. **And God is able to make all grace abound toward you,**

1. **able**- Gr. **dunatos**

- a. God is able, but this does not mean He will do what He is able to do indiscriminately. Grace must be received by faith.

2. **make all grace abound**- Gr. **perisseuo pas charis**

- a. This is not just financial grace, but all grace.

B. **that you,**

C. **always having all sufficiency in all things,**

1. **always**- Gr. **pantote**

- a. There is NEVER a time where grace is not available to do what God has called us to do. We just need to humbly receive it and lean into it.

2. **having**- Gr. **echo**

3. **sufficiency**- Gr. **autarkeia**- *a perfect condition of life in which no aid or support is needed*

- a. This Greek word come from two words. One of them is **autos**- self, and **arkeo**- to possess unending strength. This word literally means to be self-sufficient. It is important to note that we are not self-sufficient in ourselves but Christ that is within us.

4. **in all things**

- a. There is NEVER a single area of life that God does not have grace for us to tap into. It is called the manifold grace of God. [1 Pet. 4:10](#)

D. **may have an abundance for every good work**

1. **abundance**- Gr. **perisseuo**

- a. This is abundance in all things or areas.

2. **every**

a. I love this verse! All grace...abound...always...all sufficiency...in all things...abundance...every

3. **good**- Gr. **agathos**- *divine good*

4. **work**- Gr. **ergon**

a. This is not only relegated to giving, but any and all work God has called us to.

b. It is interesting to note that this verse is found in the context of giving. Giving in faith has impact in every area of our life.

9. **As it is written: "HE HAS DISPERSED ABROAD, HE HAS GIVEN TO THE POOR; HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."**

A. **As it is written**

1. **written**- Gr. **grapho**

a. Quote from [Ps. 112:9](#)

B. **He has dispersed abroad,**

1. **dispersed abroad**- Gr. **skorpizo**- *to scatter abroad (what others may collect for themselves), or one dispensing blessings literally*

C. **He has given to the poor,**

1. **given**- Gr. **didomi**

a. We are to give gifts to the poor as God gives gifts to us without strings attached or a demand of repayment.

2. **poor**- Gr. **penes**

a. Giving to the poor should be done out of a knowing that everything we have has been given to us by God and is not inherently ours or gained by our own power.

b. Often those with means will look at the poor and despise them and think of themselves as better than them.

D. **His righteousness endures forever**

1. **righteousness**- Gr. **dikaiosune**

a. Giving is not the root or cause of our righteousness, but a fruit of it.

2. **endures**- Gr. **meno**

3. **forever**- Gr. **eis aion**

a. Righteousness is an eternal gift through faith in Jesus Christ.

10. **Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply**

and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,

A. Now may He who supplies seed to the sower,

1. **supplies-** Gr. **epichorgeo-** *to outfit the choir, to lavishly supply upon and over the need*

a. This Greek word came from the Greek theatre. This spoke of rich benefactors that paid for theatrical productions and richly provided for every aspect so that it was a grand experience for all. They gave richly more than was needed. God richly supplies more than that is needed to us.

2. **seed-** Gr. **sperma**

a. The earth is run on the principle of sowing and reaping. Our spiritual relationship is governed by the principle of grace and faith. It is important not to confuse these two. Many people think grace and faith rules the natural world and are sadly mistaken.

3. **sower-** Gr. **speiro-** *one who sows*

a. How the two sets of principles intersect is by sowing what God gives to us in grace.

b. Again, giving does not make someone a sower or giver. No, this is who they are, not what they do. You can be a sower and giver and not have any money. God loves to get finances to a giver [sower] because He knows he will give it. God can trust getting money to you if He knows He can get it through you!

B. and bread for food,

1. **bread-** Gr. **artos**

2. **food-** Gr. **brosis**

a. When you get seed from God, some of it is for your own needs [bread, food], but some of it is to sow to others. When you do this more comes back to you! Don't eat all your seed! Leave some of it to sow.

C. supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.

1. **supply-** Gr. **choregeo**

a. God's supplies us seed by His grace, but we must choose to sow it. Through this sowing a greater blessing is realized in the natural.

2. **multiply**- Gr. **plethuno**

3. **seed sown**- Gr. **sporos**

a. Notice, that God multiplies seed **SOWN**, not left in your bag. God multiplies the finances you sow, not what is in your wallet!

4. **increase**- Gr. **auxano**

5. **fruits**- Gr. **gennema**- *that which has been born or begotten*

a. This is another verse that describes the extravagance of God...supplies...supply...multiply...increase...fruits. This is connected to giving. It is not automatic for every person.

b. Giving is an offspring of our identity of being righteous in Christ and sharing His nature of a giver.

6. **righteousness**

a. Again, giving is what is born out of our righteousness, not the cause of it.

11. while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

A. while you are enriched in everything for all liberality,

1. **enriched**- Gr. **ploutizo**- *to be richly furnished*

a. This is a picture of a well-watered garden or plain which produces abundantly so that rich exports are made abroad from it.

2. **in everything**

3. **liberality**- Gr. **haplotes**- *singleness, simplicity, sincerity, not self seeking, openness of heart manifesting itself by generosity*

B. which causes thanksgiving through us to God

1. **thanksgiving**- Gr. **eucharistia**

a. Everything started from God and returns to God. It comes by grace and is returned in thanksgiving.

12. For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,

A. For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints,

1. **administration**- Gr. **diakonia**- *service*

2. **service**- Gr. **leitourgia**- *a sacred ministration*

a. The giving and dispensing of finances in the kingdom is a sacred ministry. The misappropriation the tithes and offerings of God's people is a grievous sin and error.

3. **supplies**- Gr. **prosanapleroo**- *to fill up by addition; to supply deficiencies*

4. **needs**- Gr. **husterema**- *what is lagging behind or deficient*

a. God is mindful to supply all the needs of His people. [Phil. 4:19](#)

5. **saints**- Gr. **hagios**- *holy ones*

B. but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God

1. **abounding**- Gr. **perisseuo**

2. **thanksgivings**- Gr. **eucharistia**

a. We see finances and thanksgivings connected. The natural and spiritual have a connection.

13. 2Co 9:13 while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men,

A. while,

B. through the proof of this ministry,

1. **proof**- Gr. **dokime**- *to approve after testing*

a. *There are still other benefits that would result from the Corinthians' gift. It would be a definite **proof** to the Judean Christians that there really had been a work of **Christ** in the lives of these Gentile converts. At one time the Jewish Christians had real doubts about such converts as the Corinthians. Perhaps they did not consider them to be full-fledged Christians. But this kindness would be to them a great **proof** of the reality of the faith of the Corinthians, and **they** would **glorify God for what the gospel of Christ** had done in Achaia, as well as for the **liberal** contribution which had been made to them. -Believer's Bible Commentary*

2. **ministry**- Gr. **diakonia**

C. they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ,

1. **glorify**- Gr. **doxazo**

a. This refers to the Jewish believers in Jerusalem glorifying

God.

2. **obedience**- Gr. **hupotage**- *subordination*

a. NT obedience is synonymous with faith.

3. **confession**- Gr. **homologia**- *to say the same thing, agree with*

a. This is the confession of our faith. We can have faith and not confess it.

4. **gospel**- Gr. **euaggelion**- *good news*

a. Our faith in the gospel of Christ will produce fruit, which one of them is giving. Giving is not the root of our salvation, but merely a fruit of it.

D. **and for your liberal sharing with them and all men,**

1. **liberal**- Gr. **haplotes**- *simplicity, openness of heart that manifests in generosity*

2. **sharing**- Gr. **koinonia**- *partnership*

2. **men**- not in Greek- omit

14. **and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.**

A. **and by their prayer for you,**

1. **prayer**- Gr. **deesis**- *specific petition*

B. **who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.**

1. **long**- Gr. **epipotheo**

a. This is a work of grace in which Jewish believers now long for Gentiles. Before their conversion they hated the Gentiles. Love is the chief fruit of the born-again spirit.

2. **exceeding**- Gr. **huperballo**

3. **grace**- Gr. **charis**

a. This is the proof that the Gentiles are fellow heirs with the believing Jews of salvation.

15. **Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!**

A. **Thanks**- Gr. **charis**

1. This word translated as "thanks" is the same word for grace in the New Testament. Thanksgiving is the return of received and utilized grace back to God.

B. **indescribable**- Gr. **anekdiegetos**- *which cannot be related, inexpressible, unutterable, indescribable*

1. No words are adequate to describe how great salvation is through Jesus Christ.

C. **gift-** Gr. **dorea**

1. This is the gift of salvation, righteousness, and eternal life in the person of Jesus Christ.