

# SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

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2 Corinthians 9:6-15

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Nic Gibson

# God's gift of glory through generosity

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**God's gift to us is his glory.  
And his gloriousness in us.**

**This is the essence of Christian faith.  
It is no religious cliché.**

2 Cor. 9:12-15

*"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is **also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God**. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, **men 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. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of **the surpassing grace God** has given you. **Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**"*

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# 4 ways God displays his glory in generosity

How he teaches shows us his glory and how he is generous and just:  
ie. how he is greatly good.

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# 1. God reckons gifts by proportion

God counts absolute value by proportion (faith)  
and not by the relative value of our wealth.

(Technically: also by provenience)

2 Corinthians 9:6

*"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."*

## 2 Corinthians 8:2-3

"Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave **as much as they were able**, and even **beyond their ability**. Entirely on their own..."



## 2 Corinthians 8:11-12

"Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have."

## Key Passages:

**Luke 21:1-6** Poor widow and the ornate temple

**Luke 19:15-19** Reward is in proportion and out of all proportion

## Key Caveat:

We do not believe this happens in condemnation.

God is just, not extravagant in punishment. Though, the graveness of sin has multipliers of consequence we don't understand.

**God is teaching us his own  
principles of generosity.**

And calling us to live by them now.  
They are the basis of faith.

## Luke 6:31-38

*"Do to others as you would have them do to you. 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back...'"*

Luke 6:31-38 continued

*"...Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.'"*

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## 2. God desires free gifts

God's glory is seen in his free, willing gifts that he gives without compulsion. His gifts are always eager, willing, intentional and premeditated.

**Gift:** something given in a way that releases any compulsion of obligation that could inhibit sheer enjoyment.

## 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

*"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should **give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**"*



## 2 Corinthians 8:11-12

*"Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.*

*For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have."*

You will never believe in God's willingness to be kind, glorious, generous, gracious , merciful...

Until you do it in faith yourself.

And you will never start to do it yourself, until you start to believe God does it freely, willingly, and eagerly- intentionally and premeditated.

We change by doing the good by faith, willing to learn (humility).

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# 3. God is unashamed in blessing generosity.

God's glory is seen in his passion to bless generosity and curse miserliness, greed, and other vices of selfishness. They have unashamed and unexpected multipliers.

## 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

*"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and **whoever sows generously will also reap generously**. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

Luke 6:38

*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

Malachi 3:10

*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out **so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.**”*

# Cursing greed

Haggai 1:4-6

*“Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?” Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways. **You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.**”*



Matthew 20:10-16

*"So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you.'*

**<sup>15</sup> Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'**

*'So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'"*



# But this can be manipulative!!!!

Yes. By definition, every moral principle can be used in a manipulative way. Since moral principles are abstract and demand practical actions, they seek to exchange an abstract object for a material object. Where the principle is false, the manipulator is trying to “get something for nothing”.

The remedy is to have no moral principles or to have discernment about when one is being manipulated.  
(willingness, intentional and premeditation help)

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# **4. God makes righteousness and generosity an infinite feedback loop of joy.**

God's makes the riches of righteousness and  
wealth the mutual fruit of generosity.

## 2 Corinthians 9:8-10

*"And God is able to make **all** grace abound to you, so that in **all** things at **all** times, having **all that you need**, **you will abound in every good work**. As it is written:*

*'He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.'* {Psalm 112:9}

*Now 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**."*

Psalm 112:1 (This psalm is an acrostic- ie. to be memorized )

*"Praise the LORD. **Blessed is the man who** fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands. **His** children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in **his** house, and his righteousness endures for ever. Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man. Good will come to **him** who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice. Surely **he** will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered for ever. **He** will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. **His** heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end **he** will look in triumph on his foes. **He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, his righteousness endures for ever; his** horn will be lifted high in honor. **The wicked man** will see and be vexed, he will gnash his teeth and waste away; the longings of the wicked will come to nothing."*

## 2 Corinthians 9:8-10

*"And God is able to make **all** grace abound to you, so that in **all** things at **all** times, having **all that you need**, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:*

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**Thus, God wants us to EXPERIENCE his gloriousness by acting like him:**

- Seeing the absolute value of generosity in spirit, not in circumstance
- To see that to gain generously, one has to sacrifice generously
- To see that great reward is triggered by great devotion: Love
- To see that the righteous one is eager and willing to give, even cheerful
- His salvation was intentional and premeditated, not grudging
- God is unblushing in his promise of immense generosity
- Generosity, mercy and graciousness IS a kind/part of righteousness
- Righteousness makes prosperity glorious
- God's glory is seen in "righteous generosity"
- When we do it- people are moved to faith and thanksgiving

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# Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the  
Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was  
crucified, died, and was buried.



# Apostle's Creed

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father. From  
there he shall come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy  
catholic Church, the communion of the  
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the  
resurrection of the body, and the life  
everlasting. Amen.

# Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

Amen.



