

## Daily Devotional, October 5, 2020 Sowing a Generous Heart

***<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> You 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. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (NIV)***

Did it ever occur to you that God waits for you to give before He gives you more? You see, God has already given you all that you have, but there is a purpose to God's giving. That is not to say that God gives with strings attached, but God does look for faithfulness, a value that is most important to Him. When God sees that we are faithful with the many things that we have been given, God then knows that we can be trusted to do the right thing with even more.

In 2 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul compares our finances to seed and relates our giving to sowing. Now, if we are going to sow, that is, spread our seed sparsely, it doesn't give God much to work with in bringing abundance. But if you sow generously, God is going to bless you for that and you will realize most bountiful rewards, for God is able to make all benevolence increase toward you, in order that you will always have sufficient amounts in all things to distribute to others. And this generosity will bring prayers of thanks to God.

Now, if you have ever wondered what God's viewpoint is on prosperity, this is it in a nutshell. God is saying that He supplies all things for the sufficiency of all people, in order for us to flourish in all the good works that we perform to God's glory. And in all the alls I have just used, don't miss the point—the good works we do with the seed God gives us.

God is telling us that He will supply seed to *the sower*, right? God doesn't say that He will supply seed to *the hoarder*. He wants to bless you because he wants you and everyone who benefits from your efforts to witness God's wondrous and trustworthy hand of provision being displayed in what you have sown.

If instead you can't let go, and you hold on ever so tightly to the things that God has gifted you with, then you will never be able to witness the bounty in the promise that God will be there with you, that God will supply for you there, that God will abundantly multiply for you there. God only promises that He will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness in order for you to be more generous, so that you can give more away.

An interesting word interpretation that is substituted for generosity in the NKJV translation of the Bible is *liberality*. Do you know what that word is? Liberal. You need to become a liberal. Now, I don't necessarily mean politically, but I do mean generously. Become more liberal *and* generous, so that God can bless you with more seed, so that you can bless more people, so that God can bless you with more seed, and so on and so on.

You are enriched in everything for all *liberality*—for all *generosity*. Find a place or a situation today where you can be liberal and generous in your giving.

***Prayer: Gracious God, thank You for providing me with all of my needs, giving me more than just enough so that I can sow seed into the good ground that You have also provided, so that I might sow an abundance to share with others less fortunate. Thank You for Your Word that I can trust in to provide me with the daily spiritual nourishment that I need to grow my faith in You. May I grow in my generosity toward others and in the time that I spend with You. In Christ. Amen.***