"The Cycle of Blessing"
2 Corinthians 9:6-15

C. I. T.—The Lord promises to take care of cheerful, generous givers.
C. I. S.—We should not be afraid to be cheerful, generous givers, since we will be blessed of God.
Purpose—I want to encourage our people to be intentional, generous, cheerful givers.
Introduction—Recycled air through a car airconditioner

- **1 Corinthians 16:1-2**
- This passage does not refer to the support of day-to-day operations, but to special causes, in particular meeting the needs of the Jerusalem church.
- Here we are provided with the principles that allow us to be generous.
- **Vs. 6**--He begins with an illustration of the generous sower.

I. ***The Prompting of God to Bless the Cheerful Giver.*** Vs. 7

a. Paul describes the generous giver
   i. Predetermined giving--**proaire,omai**—this refers to a decision that was willingly made by the giver
   ii. The opposite is not with **lu,ph** or **avna,gkh**, which mean with pain and under compulsion.
   iii. Cheerful—**i`laro,j**--Hilarious
   iv. How is the gift determined?
      1. It is in one's heart.
      2. The Lord speaks to the heart and leads on in what they should give.
      3. Therefore, giving would be simple obedience to the leadership of Jesus in one's life.
      4. Funding plan for the Tabernacle—**Exo. 25:2**
      5. This obedience serves as an act of worship and an act of love to Him.

b. God loves this type of giver
   i. **avgapa,w**—to love for what the lover can give to the object of the love.
   ii. Other types of love, love the object for what the object can do for the lover
   iii. This type of love requires someone to give.
   iv. **John 3:16**—For God so loved that he gave…

c. Illus.—**Mark 12: 41-44**—contrast the rich and widow

d. Application
   i. Generosity is not solely about how much we give, but about how faithfully/cheerfully we give.
   ii. When we are cheerful givers, it shows our love and worship to God and prompts the Lord to love towards us.
   iii. The rest of this passage is based on the premise that one is a cheerful giver.
   iv. Does he want to provide for the generous giver? Yes!

II. ***The Power of God to Bless the Cheerful Giver.*** Vs. 8-9

a. **dunate,w—**be able, have the power to do something
b. **perisseu,w**—abounding beyond what is expected or needed.
c. All grace—the gift of God and presence of the Lord on one's life
d. In every area and sphere of life and in every way
e. So that you can accomplish every good work—generous giving
f. Quotes Psalm 112:9, referring to a generous/righteous man
g. Illus.—**1 Kings 17:8-16**-Widow's trust, God was able
h. Application
   i. The most basic fear is that if we give, we will take away from our children or basic needs.

ii. It will require some sacrifice.
iii. This giving is to be done by faith, faith that He is able to take care of all of your needs so that you can serve Him through generous giving.
iv. He says that he is powerful to provide above and beyond.
v. Is He able to provide for the generous giver? Yes!

III. ***The Promise of God to Bless the Cheerful Giver.*** Vs. 10-15

a. God presently provides the seed for you to invest.
b. What is the return on your investment?
   i. The Lord will supply and multiply the seed that you can reinvest next time.
   ii. You will benefit—enriched, in every way, which includes all areas of life, not just finances.
   iii. Produce thanksgiving to God.
   iv. Meet the practical needs of the Jerusalem church.
   v. Provides a reason for others to thank God.
   vi. Testifies to the gospel of Jesus.
   vii. Will result in praise, thanksgiving, and worship to God.
   viii. Will result in the reciprocated ministry of prayer from the Jerusalem church.
c. The Lord will continue to bless those who are cheerful givers, because he wants them to continue to be.
d. Illus.—$ for Cici's youth trip
e. Application
   i. If he can trust you to reinvest His blessings into the kingdom, He will enable you so that you will continue to invest.
   ii. However, if He notices that His blessings end with you, He will not be motivated to bless you, but will choose others.
   iii. A generous church will be a candidate for His blessing and enablement to honor Him even more through generosity.
   iv. When you hold onto your money, you close the door on…
      1. God's blessing in your life.
      2. God's blessing in someone else's life.
   v. The way to open that cycle is to start by being faithfully obedient to His call to give.
      1. Day-to-day operations are to be done through the tithe.
      2. Special Projects are to be done through the Freewill Offerings.

Conclusion

- It is easier to cool the car with recycled air.
- It is easier to bless those who are already cheerful givers.
- These are they that God will use to impact eternity.
- Will you be one of them?
- Call to prayer.

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Exodus 25:2 "Tell the Israelites to take an offering for me. You are to take my offering from everyone who is willing to give.

Mark 12:41 Sitting across from the temple treasury, he watched how the crowd dropped money into the treasury. Many rich people were putting in large sums. 42 Then a poor widow came and dropped in two tiny coins worth very little. 43 Summoning his disciples, he said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 For they all gave out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had-- all she had to live on."

1 Kings 17:8 Then the word of the LORD came to him: 9 "Get up, go to Zarephath that belongs to Sidon and stay there. Look, I have commanded a woman who is a widow to provide for you there." 10 So Elijah got up and went to Zarephath. When he arrived at the city gate, there was a widow gathering wood. Elijah called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup and let me drink." 11 As she went to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand." 12 But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I don't have anything baked-- only a handful of flour in the jar and a bit of oil in the jug. Just now, I am gathering a couple of sticks in order to go prepare it for myself and my son so we can eat it and die." 13 Then Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid; go and do as you have said. But first make me a small loaf from it and bring it out to me. Afterward, you may make some for yourself and your son, 14 for this is what the LORD God of Israel says, 'The flour jar will not become empty and the oil jug will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the surface of the land.'" 15 So she proceeded to do according to the word of Elijah. Then the woman, Elijah, and her household ate for many days. 16 The flour jar did not become empty, and the oil jug did not run dry, according to the word of the LORD he had spoken through Elijah.

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