

SOW
generously
GIVE
cheerfully
ABOUND
in every good work

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

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You Can't Out Give God

In urging the Corinthian believers to give generously, Paul is aware that he must address a very human concern in a world of limited re-

Upcoming Events

- January 26th 7 PM
First Impressions Team Fellowship
- January 29th 6:30 PM
Sectional Men's Rally
- February 3rd 10 AM

sources. Some of his hearers must have been thinking, "If I give as altruistically as Paul is urging me to give, there may not be enough to meet my own needs." Making use of an extended agricultural metaphor, Paul assures them that in God's economy things work differently. He has already alluded to a principle from the book of Proverbs, noting that the "one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully" (compare 2 Cor. 9:6 with Prov. 11:24-25). He followed this up by quoting an aphorism from the Greek version of Proverbs 22:8, that "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). From this he infers a promise that for the one who gives generously, God can and will cause all sorts of blessings[1] to abound.

Paul, therefore, assures the Corinthians that their generosity does not come at the risk of future poverty. On the contrary, generosity is the route to prevent future deprivation. "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor. 9:8). In the next two verses he assures those who sow (or "scatter") generously to the poor that God will provide them with enough seed for that sowing and for bread for their own needs. He underscores this when he says, "You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us" (2 Cor. 9:11), a promise that encompasses and goes beyond material blessings.

Although Paul is clearly speaking of material generosity and blessing, we must be careful not to turn an assurance of God's provision into an expectation of getting rich. God is no pyramid scheme! The "abundance" Paul speaks of means "having enough of everything," not getting rich. The so-called "prosperity gospel" profoundly misunderstands passages like this. Following Christ is not a

Missions Department Walk-A-Thon

February 5th 7PM

GriefShare

February 6th 7PM

Women's Ministry Coffee and Chocolate

February 13th 7PM

Department Head Meeting

March 16th through the 18th

Girls Ministries Powette

First Impressions Team Fellowship



Friday, January 26th at 7 PM

If you serve on any of our First Impression teams (Greeter, Info Desk) or you are interested in being a part, we will be having an evening of fellowship here at the church. It will be in the Youth Building. We will provide the main dish, we ask that everyone bring a side dish to share.

Sectional Mens Rally



Monday, January 29th

6:30PM

All of our Harvest Men are invited to attend this months Men's Rally. It will be held at Central Assembly of God in Auburndale.

money-making scheme, as Paul has been at pains to say throughout the letter.

This has obvious applications in giving away the fruits of our labor, that is, in donating money and other resources. But it applies equally well in giving of ourselves during our labor. We need not fear that by helping others succeed at work we will compromise our own well-being. God has promised to give us all that we need. We can help others look good at work without fearing it will make us look lackluster by comparison. We can compete fairly in the marketplace without worrying that it takes a few dirty tricks to make a living in a competitive business.

We can pray for, encourage, support, and even assist our rivals because we know that God, not our competitive advantage, is the source of our provision. We must be careful not to distort this promise into the false gospel of health and wealth, as many have done. God does not promise true believers a big house and an expensive car. But he does assure us that if we look to the needs of others, he will make sure that our needs will be met in the process.

Harvest Giving App

For IOS and Android Phones

We are happy to announce that we have a quick and secure tool that is available to us now for Giving. All you need to do is go to your App store on your phone and type in Harvest Assembly of God Lakeland, and download it for free right to your smart phone.

Missions Department Walk-A-Thon

Dinner will be served at 6:30 with the service to follow. This months guest speaker will be Dr. Bill Hackett from Southeastern University.

Girls Ministries Powette



**Friday, March 16th through
Sunday, March 18th**

Powette is for girls that are in Stars, Friends and Girls Only. This is our annual camping trip at Camp Wilderness. The cost is \$80 which includes all meals for the weekend. Registration and monies are due by Wednesday, January 31st. If you are able to sponsor one of our girls to attend Powette we ask that you please place it in the offering plate and mark it "Powette Sponsorship."

Quick Links

[Facebook Page](#)

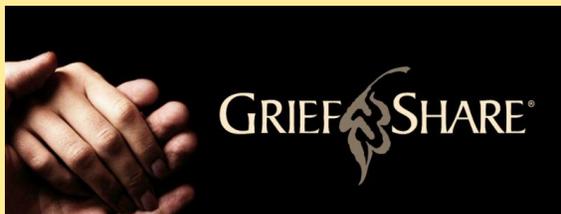
[Church Website:](#)



Saturday, February 3rd

Please join our Missions team for a 5 mile walk to raise funds for missions. The walk will take place a Fort Frazier Trail and is starting at 10 AM. We encourage you to get people tp sponsor you for your walk. For more information contact Jerm or Deb Day-Storms.

GriefShare



Starting Monday, February 5th

GriefShare is a ministry that walks with people that have lost a loved one, and helps give them the tools for healing. The classes will be on Monday nights from 7-9 pm in the Preschool Room. For more information contact Gordon Moody or Susan Carmack.

Service Times

Saturday

7pm Adult Worship

7 pm Embrace Children's Church

Sunday

9 am Early Morning Worship

9 am Christian Education

11 am Mid Morning Worship

11 am Harvest Kids Church

11 am Special Needs Church

6 pm Evening Worship

6 pm Student Ministries

Wednesday

7 pm Adult Worship

7 pm Girls Ministries and Royal Rangers

We look forward to seeing you!

Harvest Assembly Of God

