

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

Study Guide

Joyful Generosity

Kevin Yule
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Major Points

- 1 **God doesn't need your money or sacrifices—He owns everything. He is after your heart, not your wallet.**

Psalm 50:10-12

- 2 **Giving must be willing and joyful, not done out of compulsion, duty, or obligation—God loves a cheerful giver.**

2 Corinthians 9:7

- 3 **Sowing bountifully reaps bountifully—not in financial return, but in the harvest of righteousness and the joy of advancing God's kingdom.**

2 Corinthians 9:6

- 4 **Generous giving must be a deliberate decision you stand on, especially when the enemy attacks and tempts you to take back what you've committed to God.**

2 Corinthians 9:7

Key Quotes

"God doesn't need your stuff. He doesn't need your money. He owns everything. God is after your heart.
at 18:50

"It's not about the amount. It's about what we learned in that season.
at 4:37

"it's not about what you give. It's all about why you give.
at 18:58

"The day I put my faith in Jesus Christ, Satan lost the battle for my soul. Now his only goal is to get my eyes off of everything I have in Jesus.
at 29:09

"Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift.
at 31:58

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Yule shared how money had an 'incredible hold' on him early in his marriage. In what ways do you think financial anxiety can subtly compete with our trust in God, even when we genuinely want to follow Him?

2. What's the difference between giving out of obligation or duty and giving with genuine joy? How can you tell which one is driving your own generosity right now?
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3. Pastor Yule pointed out that God didn't flood them with extra money but instead removed unexpected expenses — 'the soles of your sandals will not wear out.' How does that kind of quiet provision shape your faith differently than a dramatic financial windfall would?
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4. Paul uses the agricultural metaphor of sowing and reaping in 2 Corinthians 9:6, and Pastor Yule was careful to distinguish this from prosperity gospel teaching. What do you think Paul means when he says we'll 'reap bountifully,' if it's not about getting rich?
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5. Pastor Yule closed by asking us to examine whether our giving is truly cheerful or has become a 'line item on an Excel spreadsheet.' What practical steps could you take this week to honestly evaluate the posture of your heart when it comes to generosity?
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Word Studies

ἡλαρόν
hilaron

Greek

Cheerful, glad, or gracious in disposition — conveying a readiness and delight rather than mere willingness, the root from which English 'hilarious' derives.

ἀνεκδιήγητος
anekdiēgētos

Greek

Indescribable, beyond the power of words to fully express — used only here in the New Testament, emphasizing the surpassing magnitude of the gift.

αὐτάρκειαν autarkeian

Greek

Self-sufficiency or contentment that is independent of external circumstances — here indicating a God-supplied adequacy that frees believers to be generous.

Cross References

Proverbs 11:24-25

Echoes Paul's sowing-and-reaping principle from the Old Testament wisdom tradition: the generous soul prospers, and the one who withholds ends up in want — reinforcing that joyful generosity is a consistent biblical pattern, not a New Testament innovation.

1 Chronicles 29:14-17

David's prayer at the temple offering acknowledges that everything given to God originally came from Him — directly paralleling Pastor Yule's point and Psalm 50's teaching that God owns everything and desires a willing heart over mere material gifts.

Philippians 4:18-19

Paul describes the Philippians' financial gift as a fragrant offering acceptable to God and promises God will supply all their needs — connecting generosity, worship, and divine provision in the same way 2 Corinthians 9:8-11 does.

Malachi 3:10

God invites Israel to test Him in tithing and promises to open the windows of heaven — an Old Testament precedent for God's call to trust Him with finances and experience His faithful response.

Acts 4:32-35

The early Jerusalem church shared possessions so that no one was in need — providing the historical backdrop for the very collection Paul is organizing and illustrating the church unity that generosity produces across Jewish and Gentile lines.

Further Reading

- **The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving**
by Randy Alcorn
- **Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions**
by Craig L. Blomberg
- **The Grace of Giving: Money and the Gospel**
by John Stott

Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
2 Corinthians 9:1-5	Read Aloud	11:30	<i>Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about...</i>
2 Corinthians 9:6-7	Read Aloud	14:28	<i>The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will als...</i>
2 Corinthians 9:8-11	Read Aloud	21:00	<i>And God is able to make all grace abound to you, s...</i>
Psalms 50:7-15	Read Aloud	16:57	<i>"Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I ...</i>
2 Corinthians 9:12-13	Read Aloud	23:10	<i>For the ministry of this service is not only suppl...</i>
2 Corinthians 9:15	Read Aloud	31:58	<i>Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift.</i>
Psalms 112:9	Referenced	21:00	<i>He has dispersed, he has given to the poor: His ri...</i>
Deuteronomy 29:5	Referenced	5:20	<i>I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your...</i>
Matthew 25:14-30	Referenced	21:43	<i>"For it is like a man, going into another country,...</i>
Matthew 16:18	Referenced	18:36	<i>I also tell you that you are Peter, and on this ro...</i>
2 Corinthians 9:14-15	Read Aloud	31:58	<i>while they long for you and pray for you, because ...</i>
Matthew 26:39	Referenced	33:02	<i>He went forward a little, fell on his face, and pr...</i>
Psalms 139:23-24	Referenced	20:18	<i>Search me, God, and know my heart. Try me, and kno...</i>