



## “We are the Happiest when Generous!”

“My word have people helped me!” A dozen examples readily come to mind!

Here is the battle: Generosity vs. Affluenza.\*

What if “bigger barns” was never the point of bigger incomes?

Here is just a fraction of what God says about generosity—2 Corinthians 9:6-9:

- We reap in exact proportion to what we sow. (v 6)
- We are to give joyfully from the heart. (v 7)
  - What if generosity is not “have to” but “get to?”
- God gives us an abundance expressly so that we will be generous. (vv 8, 9)
  - We have an abundance for every good deed.
  - Psalms 112:9

**Idea:** God prospers us not to raise our standard of *living* but our standard of *giving*.

- 2 Corinthians 8:9; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Proverbs 11:25; Acts 4:36, 37
- Generous people don’t live for things when Jesus died for people.

What will you do?

- 11 possibilities for being a “doer of the Word.”
- High-Leverage Resource: [www.generousgiving.com](http://www.generousgiving.com)

65 years later...

\*“Affluenza” is a term coined by De Graaf et al. in their book entitled *Affluenza* and it refers to the “disease” of uncontrolled affluence that drives us to want more and more.

# “Walking Papers”

*Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week*

**Idea:** God prospers us not to raise our standard of *living* but our standard of *giving*.  
2 Corinthians 9:6-9

- **Today.** Make a list of the people who have been generous with you and what they did. Were any of these gifts given when you were at a point of substantial need in your life? Ask God to bring people to your attention who need generosity from you.

- **Monday.** How does the desire for generosity manifest itself in your life? How do the affects of “influenza”\* show up in your life?

- **Tuesday.** Please read 2 Corinthians 9:6-9. What is the main point and application of verse 6 for you? How would you characterize your “sowing” in the area of generosity?

- **Wednesday.** Please read 2 Corinthians 9:6-9. What is the main point and application of verse 7 for you? What does it mean for you if generosity is not “have to” but “get to?”

- **Thursday.** Please read 2 Corinthians 9:6-9. What is the main point and application of verses 8 and 9 for you? What does it mean in your life if God has “given you an abundance for every good deed?”

- **Friday.** Please read Psalms 112:9. What is the main point and application of this verse for you? Do you know anyone who is truly poor? Might God be leading you to support the truly poor through Samaritan’s Purse or World Vision or Compassion International?

- **Saturday.** Please surf around on [www.generousgiving.com](http://www.generousgiving.com) for 15 to 30 minutes. Is there anything that God may be leading you to do—anything jumping out at you?

*Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at:  
[www.cypressbible.org](http://www.cypressbible.org) (Quick Menu / Connect / Sermon Based Small Group Material)*