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November 3, 2024

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-12

Sermon Title: Great Generosity

Do you know how people sometimes say they are preaching to the choir? How many of you are in the choir? Well, I am preaching to you and all of us. Today I am sharing generosity, and I am preaching to the choir because you all are already generous folks. This is more a sermon to thank you for being a generous community and to encourage us to stay in a spirit of generosity.

In our passage today, great generosity is described in a few ways that I wish to highlight.

Great Generosity is:

- Cheerful
- Out of an abundance of what God gives us
- Enriching
- Leads to a spirit of thanksgiving

**Cheerful:** We all know that when we give it can be done with a cheerful heart or more reluctantly. I remember I once was showing a person a book to look at and they accidentally thought I was giving them a gift. The truth is I did not want to give him my book, but begrudgingly I said, “Oh sure here you go.” The truth is I probably should have been a cheerful giver and planned to give my friend a book. God invites us to be cheerful givers. As followers of Jesus it is really a privilege to partner in the mission of Christ by giving gifts. Cheerful giving is a great goal for anyone.

**Out of an abundance of what God gives us:**

Paul reminds the church in Corinth that as they give God will provide for them. This may seem hard to believe at times, but there does seem to be a correlation in life that as we give of our time, treasure, or talent God has a way of giving back to us and helping us be sustained in our giving. Another way to think about this in business is the law of scarcity and abundance. If we focus on scarcity

thinking, we often become stingy with sharing our resources as people. When we are more generous or aware of God's abundance, it is as if an opening is available to receive an abundance of resource whether those resources involves finances, energy, or love.

**Enriching:** In our passage today generosity is talked about as enriching. Verse 11 says, "You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity."

This reminds us that our giving helps make our life more meaningful. We become better people as we are generous. We are enriched.

**Thanksgiving:** Finally, I like the idea that our generosity makes us overflow with thanksgiving to God. Now that it is November, we are entering a time of thanksgiving and gratitude. What are you thankful for? Who do we need to thank?

Let me say again thank you to all of you being a generous community that cheerfully serves God together. May we say thank

you for the many saints who have blessed this congregation for decades. We are grateful for the saints living and those that have onto heaven.

This is an exciting time to partner in mission together! We are beginning a new ministry which we are calling the Newberg Center for Christian Spirituality. Our capital campaign will help support this ministry by providing a new roof for our Fellowship Hall and an interior renovation to the Fellowship Hall including air conditioning. We also will beautify our campus with new trees on Mission Drive, improved signage, and continued care and development of our Peace Garden.

All of these efforts are so that we thrive as a Christ centered community of grace, hope, peace and love focused on sharing the peace and love of Christ with all creation. In our church we will continue to care for the young, elderly, and all ages in between. We will be Christ's hands and feet to the vulnerable by providing bikes

through our bike ministry and by partnering with other churches like Northside Community Church in feeding the houseless. We will work with our mission partners to support mission efforts around the globe.

Story of Generosity from my recent experience with presbytery...

Let us pray...

AMEN

## 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to provide you with every blessing[a] in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 9 As it is written,

“He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor;  
his righteousness[b] endures forever.”

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.[c] 11 You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, 12 for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.