
SETTING SAIL

Hoist the Sails

God has called us to be a large regional church of significance in our city so that thousands more people would come to know and experience the sacrifice of love Jesus made for them. It is going to take all of us to contribute our time, talent and treasure to see the vision come to life.

Time

By giving your time, you are intentionally investing into relationships with people who don't know Jesus. We can all reach those who God has brought into our lives like friends, colleagues, school contacts and more. We also have several activities that we run as a church that you can get involved in that reach people in specific ways.

Talent

Each of us has been blessed with God-given gifts that can help grow the church. We'd love to help explore how your passions can bless Riverlife and the community! Joining a team is a great way to get connected, serve others and grow in your walk with Jesus.

Treasure

Giving regularly out of your income to the work of Riverlife. God is always first and the first is always God's.

Joyful Giving Is Like Planting Crops – 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Paul starts with an illustration to explain how we can learn to delight in our giving. He says that joyful giving is like planting crops – if you sow a lot you will reap a lot. In modern day proverbial wisdom: "We get as good as we give." (2 Corinthians 9:6)

Kingdom faith is trusting that God will use our resources to meet the needs of others, and to further the work of the Kingdom.

Guidelines for Giving (2 Corinthians 9:7)

1. Giving is an individual matter.
2. Giving is a considered decision.
3. Giving is joyfully voluntary.

We can learn to give cheerfully and abundantly for the right reasons. God can transform us and make us into gracious, generous people who reflect His character.

Giving With Confident Expectation

Our giving can be with confident expectation of what God is going to do through us (2 Corinthians 9:8-9).

We share God's abundant grace and the resources of heaven.

Generous Christians ≠ Wealthy in Terms of Material Things

Generous Christians = Distributing God's Resources
(Time/Talents/Treasure)

It is not our sufficiency, but the sufficiency of God that we can depend on (2 Corinthians 3:4-5).

We not only share God's gracious resources, but we also share His righteousness. If our hearts are right, our grace giving will build our Christian character; "right-living, right-giving."

Giving Is Spiritually Enriching

God, through His grace, will enrich us morally and spiritually so that we can grow in Christian character as we give (2 Corinthians 9:10-11).

Once again, the issue is God-dependency, not self-sufficiency. The generous giver, just like the farmer, is totally dependent on the Lord from start to finish. Paul is convinced that God will repay generosity in sowing on our part with the necessary resources to continue our lifestyle of generosity (Matthew 10:8; Acts 20:35).

A generous life is a life that uses all of our resources—physical, material, emotional, financial and relational.

God wants us to give ourselves in our entirety to Him, to others, to needs and to opportunities.

Joyful Giving Brings Glory to God

When we give ourselves away for Jesus' sake, it will produce thanksgiving to God (2 Corinthians 9:12-14).

Generous giving benefits the entire body of Christ, not just individuals.

Generous giving stimulates prayer and caring in the hearts of those who benefit. Their love will be deepened for those who give, then reciprocate by blessing the givers through intercessory prayer.

Joyful Giving Is an Act of Worship (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Our own giving is to be like God's. He gave the ultimate example of generosity (Romans 8:32). We have been given life in Jesus, the Holy Spirit enables us to live that life and all of heaven's resources as well.

The Bible says that "thanks" and "giving" go together. Today we're going to express our thanks by giving to God as a part of worship.

Discussion Questions

1. Read the passage 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. What impacts you most about generous giving?
2. Why do you think Paul gives guidelines to giving? Discuss.
3. Share together when you have either been blessed by the generous gift of another or when you have had opportunity to generously bless someone else. What reaction did this stir in you?
4. A generous life is a life that uses all of our resources—physical, material, emotional, financial and relational. This brings glory to God and shows His kingdom values. What can you do this week to display His likeness and through a generous life, worship Him?
5. **Investing in the Vision.** Under God, Riverlife depends on the generosity of people like you and me for its ministry and its resources. Check out how you can contribute your time, talent and treasure to bring the vision to life.

<https://riverlifechurch.org.au/about/investing-in-the-vision/>