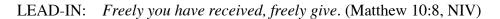
The Circle of Love

Matthew 10:8; 2 Corinthians 8 & 9



TOPICS: Serving in Christ's Name; Stewardship



LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

The Circle of Love

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of your service, men will praise God for your obedience and generosity. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 10-13, NIV adapted)

All giving begins with God. He is the source of all good things. He is full and overflows in love to all He has created.

He gives to us and urges us to share His joy by giving to others. He frees us to give generously, promising that He will supply everything we need.

When we give to others, they respond by giving thanks to God. They complete the circle of love that God began when He gave: God, to us, to others, and back to God. Everyone is enriched. Everyone experiences the joys of receiving and giving. We are drawn closer to God and to each other.

If we grow too fearful to take what God gives us and share it with others, we break the circle. Others are left in need, and we cause separation between each other and God.

God is offering us the joy of giving. Receive it! Be part of the circle of love!

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