



A Twenty-One Day Digital Devotional

Day Sixteen

God loves a Hilarious giver!

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided (purposed) in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. - 2 Corinthians 9:6–8

Paul begins these verses with a simple, logical statement. In agricultural terms, if you spread much seed, then you can expect a large harvest. If you spread little seed, it makes no sense to expect a large harvest.

As we move into verse seven, Paul focuses on our intention. This is the only time in the New Testament that the word purpose occurs. We are supposed to approach sowing with a plan – prayerful, expectant and determined. This is the Father’s business so we must first go to Him for our part in His plan. Once we have received instruction from Him, we should move forward with hilarious expectation of a smile on His face as we give to Him.

My father loved Lionel trains, not the little ones but the big 0-Scale. Getting him a Christmas present was both easy in knowing what he wanted and yet took time and research because it was not always easy to find. I would go to store after store looking for the best train-related present whether it was a new box car or accessory for the train layout. My focus was not on the sacrifice in time and money on my part, but on the cheerful expectation regarding the look on his face and his enjoyment.

Our Heavenly Father loves a cheerful (hilaros, English word hilarious) giver. God makes it clear what He likes: giving to the poor, boasting in His name and making His name known!

Notice that Paul mentions giving at the end. Paul begins by focusing our attention on sowing which is an agricultural term leading us to think of harvest and reaping. Paul realizes that we can be very self-absorbed. We need to focus on expectations for the future and not on immediate risk and sacrifice.

Paul presents us with the following facts; God is quite capable of making all grace abound to us! What does this mean? In our modern culture, we have come to see this as God will fulfill all our desires when, in reality, God means so much more. God will make sure we have all we need to be content and that He will meet all our needs. “And my God will supply all of your needs (literally; every need) according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:19.

We are free, yes free to move forward with His mission for our lives and our possessions, without having to worry about our needs. Did you get that? You cannot have a need God cannot fill! No one else can ever make that promise. I cannot promise this to my children but I can point them to Him. As I give and share with others I can point them to my Father who has unlimited resources. I can share with them out of what He has given me and boast only in the fact that He is my Father.

Questions To Consider

Do I sow bountifully as God defines it?

Do I purpose to give with God’s resources in mind and not my own?

Do I give to my Father with a “hilarious” attitude?

Prayer Focus

Father, keep me focused on You as I give with a desire to know You are smiling, confident that I am giving ALL, not some of what You want from me. Lead me in Your mission and not my own. Amen.

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