

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Date : 27 July 2025

Sermon Title : Sow Generously; Reap Eternally

Speaker : Rev Peter Koh

Text : 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

INTRODUCTION

Pledging is about our commitment to give towards building God's Kingdom. Consider this question, "How difficult is it for us to give and bless each other?" Through the verses in 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, we can observe that there are three movements in giving.

S- Source and Supply

O - Open-handed Sowing

W - Witnessing Harvest

I. Source and Supply (vv.6, 8, 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. (2 Corinthians 9:10, ESV)

God is the Provider

In this verse, we see the prevenient grace of God at work. Before we can make a living, He gives to us, just like a father and mother give school going kids (who cannot make a living) an allowance. God is the source of all we have; God is our provider. When we give, we give not what we own but what He has given to us. When gratitude precedes generosity, we know we only give a portion of what He has blessed us with, hence we need to give generously. God is the source and supplier of what we need and what we can give.

Sowing is not Spending

Giving is like planting seeds or sowing. When we give, we are sowing into people's lives and the community, and sowing into the Kingdom of God. Giving is not just about paying for church expenses. When we give, we are investing into the ministry and people's lives. God wants us to understand that He is the source of our income and He wants us to freely invest in people, in ministry in our outreach and social concerns – our adopt a block initiatives (AAB), our God of Love Delivery program (GOLD), our Boy's Brigade (BB) or Girl's Brigade (GB) in schools, the lonely seniors outreach, and the various missions fields.

We invest into eternity because these people may not go to heaven if they have not heard the Good News. When we give, we are investing. We may not be able to share the Good News ourselves but when we give, we empower somebody who is willing to go even to Timbuktu to share the Gospel. When we give, somebody who is willing to knock on door

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

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to door, because of their love, may lead many people to come to know God. Giving is about sowing, not spending, hence pledging is about sowing into God's Kingdom.

II. Open handed Sowing (v.7)

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7, ESV)

Decided – make up the mind. Intentional, prayerful decision, not out of emotional impulse. We give not because we have been asked to. We give because we want to give intentionally. We give because we know this is for God's kingdom and to bless someone in need.

Not Reluctantly – no-gritted teeth giving

Cheerful (*hilaron Gk.*) – joy that spills over; giving becomes a form of praise/worship

Sowing Reflects the Heart, Not the Wallet

- Sow from joy and faith, not pressure or guilt – We must learn to give with a cheerful heart so that joy spills over and it becomes a form of praise and worship. We give as a worship unto the Lord, not because the church or pastor tells us to do so. We give because we believe that God has called the church to reach out to the community and to the people. We give because we believe in sowing into the lives of the people. This is something that many of us do not fully comprehend. The widow with two coins gave with all joy and faith, out of her heart, sacrificially.
- Sowing shows where your heart truly trusts – Jesus saw her heart and not the amount she gave. He understood the woman gave as a sacrifice of love in worship. Sowing shows where our heart truly is. Jesus said, *“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”*. (Matthew 6:21)

This is not a tax, it is worship

Trusting God's Provision

Giving is not about surplus, it is sacrifice over surplus. We worship God through giving and we give generously knowing that our giving will touch people's hearts. Where this seed lands it will begin to germinate and grow and flourish and be a blessing. When we sow, the money comes from God and when we sow generously, we are investing into God's Kingdom. We must learn to trust Him.

When we give faithfully, we begin to live fruitfully and see lives transformed. When we give to a good cause, we see the community change. When we give, things evolve, things change and results in fruitful living. We need to give and trust the leadership of the church to learn to hear from God to use this giving for the extension of his kingdom.

Faithful giving leads to fruitful living

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III. Witnessing Harvest (vv.8-11)

“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. You may show the good work that God has given to you. 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. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.” (2 Cor 9:8-11)

When we give, God multiplies. He does not multiply in terms of cashback from shops or credit cards but God multiplies the way we bless people. When we bless another person and that person comes to know the Lord, this person will share with others who will in turn share with another and so there is a multiplier effect. God honours our faithful giving and will turn it into fruitful living. Hence, we must learn to work alongside God and serve Him. If we cannot serve, give so that others can serve and be enabled to share the Good News to others.

What kind of harvest do we hope to witness?

- A harvest of changed lives – transformed lives that will change the world
- A harvest of mission expanded – by reaching out far and wide
- A harvest of hearts drawn to Jesus – who worship God together

We never lose what we give to God – we plant it in eternity

3 Dimensions of the Harvest

- **Personal Formation (Righteousness)**
When we learn to give, when we learn to trust God, we also learn about righteousness and we also learn about transformation in our lives.
- **Ministry Impact (Good Works)**
When we give, God honours us just as God honours the widow and there will be ministry impact and people’s lives are touched because of our giving.
- **Eternal Joy (Thanksgiving to God)**
When people’s lives are touched, there will be eternal joy and the heavens rejoice.

A Pledge is not a payment – it is a planting into God’s Kingdom. As we dedicate our pledges, we must have the right attitude that God gives us what we have, to enable us to be cheerful givers. As we witness God’s transforming grace we see a **Grace Cycle** at work:

God gives us His prevenient grace. We give to others and God multiplies it, so that we see even more grace and more opportunities to be a blessing.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give”

- Winston Churchill

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CONCLUSION

God is our provider and He loves a cheerful giver. In gratitude, we give generously to God's Kingdom to enable it to grow. Our church has grown because those who have gone before us have been faithful in their giving, and the people who serve are faithful in administering it. In the same way, let us be faithful to give and serve as those who have gone before us and invest into eternity with our giving and change somebody's life and create a multiplier effect. Give with a cheerful heart so that our church can do God's work and be a blessing to the community and beyond.

A. Review Sermon Application

Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk!?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?

2. What was your personal perception on the act of pledging to God before this sermon and what is different after hearing it, if any?

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B. Relate Sermon Content

Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.

3. Appoint someone to read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 slowly and listen reflectively.
 - a. On a scale of 1-10 (1- not easy at all, 10- very easy), how easy is it for you to pledge to God and fulfil it?
 - b. Do you give cheerfully without reluctance? What could hinder you from giving cheerfully?
 - c. How do these verses encourage you to give cheerfully?

4. Appoint someone to read 2 Corinthians 9:8-11 slowly and listen reflectively.
 - a. What do you understand from the '3 Dimensions of the Harvest' and the 'Grace Cycle'?
 - b. How do you think God feels about your sowing into His Kingdom?
 - c. What is one thing you will change in "planting into God's Kingdom" from now on?
 - d. Pause to pray for one another and commit to hold each other accountable to achieve 4c. in the following week(s) until your next meeting.

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C. Testimonies, Prayers and Action

Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.

5. Share a time when you witnessed the impact of your generous sowing into God's Kingdom through your pledge.

OR

Give thanks to God for being our source and supply of all we have and for the faithfulness of those who have pledged and sowed into the church and community and blessed the lives of others that they may know our One True God.

6. As a group, pray for the Holy Spirit to enlighten you so you may understand pledging to God is not a payment or a tax but a planting into His Kingdom. Seek God's forgiveness if you have not pledged from a heart of gratitude, sacrifice and love to Him and commit to fulfil 3c. above.

Pray for our church leaders to have wisdom to administer the pledges that God has entrusted them with and for the Holy Spirit to convict and enable our church to be open-handed in our sowing into His Kingdom.

Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. This is Amazing Grace – Phil Wickham

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjXjkbODrro&list=RDriXjkbODrro&start_radio=1

2. One – Bethel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0Xp-TsJgJY&list=RDN0Xp-TsJgJY&start_radio=1

3. Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me - CityAlight

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zundjUFazfg&list=RDzundjUFazfg&start_radio=1

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