

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009

## THE JOY OF GENEROSITY

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### 2 Corinthians 8, 9 & 11

*God wants you to be rich & happy!*

#### Introduction

Square 1 = God is good.

Square 2 = We need to unlearn the ways of our fallen world.

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#### **Consumerism**

What do you get from being rich?

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*You will be made rich in every way...*                      2 Corinthians 9:11

2 Corinthians 11:23-27 – Paul's lifestyle.

*Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned,  
three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in  
the open sea*

*I have laboured and toiled and have often gone without  
sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone  
without food; I have been cold and naked.*

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## **A different definition of 'Rich'...**

### **Kingdom**

What do you get from being rich?

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#### The joy of being able to bless others

- Acts 20:35 - *'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*
- Love is ... delighting in another's joy.
- 2 Corinthians 8:1-2, 4 – The Macedonians.

#### **The joy of Generosity**

- Being made in God's nature
- The brilliant design of the kingdom
- We enjoy money.....by using it to bless others.

God designs a personal training programme for each of us  
in kingdom generosity

#### **Stage 1 – He models to us**

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. – 2 Corinthians 8v9

Total dependence upon the Father, (miraculous provision)

Freedom from material concerns

Poured out his life in sacrificial love.

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**Stage 2 – He re-orientates us**

Matthew 19:10f – Rich young man – *Go sell all you have*  
Simplicity – detach us from grasp of material things.

Life of sharing, not grasping – 2 Corinthians 8:14 – *your abundance shall supply their need..*

**The goal is giving not getting**

Kingdom economics

*Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.* 2 Corinthians 9:6

*v10 - 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. [ESV]*

<b>Time/energy</b>	<b>Money</b>
<b>Skills/expertise</b>	<b>Possessions / resources</b>

**Stage 3 – He gives us opportunities to develop**

*Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* 2 Corinthians 9:7

The target isn't the amount – It's the training

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Opportunities come through relationship

Stage 4 – **He resources us**

*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.*  
2 Corinthians 9:8

*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.* Luke 6:38

**2 Corinthians 9:11**

*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.*