

## **LIVES OVERFLOWING FROM THANKFULNESS**

**2 Corinthians 9:6–15 (NIV)** Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.” <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup> This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup> Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. <sup>14</sup> And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

**1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)** <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

**1 Kings 17:13–16 (NIV)** Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup> For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.’ ” <sup>15</sup> She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. <sup>16</sup> For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.

### TEACHING POINTS:

- Our thankfulness leads us to spirit of generosity.
- God has called us to be generous with our time, our talent, and our treasure; He even promises to enable our generosity.
- Investments in God’s Kingdom always pay off.
- Because of God’s promises, we can live in an attitude of abundance rather than scarcity.

**ThankFULL**  
**Nov 17, 2019**  
**Westgate Church of Christ**

**DISCUSSION:**

1. Some preachers have referred to 2 Cor 9 as the “one law you can’t break.” Would you agree?
2. Discuss the concept of scarcity vs. abundance in Scripture. What is the default view of the world? What is God’s view?
3. How do you view time from a viewpoint of scarcity versus abundance?
4. How do you view money from a viewpoint of scarcity versus abundance?
5. How do you view your talents (gifts) from a viewpoint of scarcity versus abundance?
6. Last Wednesday Devin discussed Rom 12 and using our gifts. In the original Greek Paul’s statement “let us use” our gifts is not a general saying (i.e. “*it would be nice if you would use your gifts*”), rather it is an imperative command: Use your gifts! What keeps us from fully mobilizing our individual talents for the Kingdom?
7. Would you agree that investments in God’s Kingdom always pay off? How? Do you always get to see it?
8. “If you have Jesus, you have enough.” Would you agree that is true? Why? How does that affect times where you feel like you don’t have enough?
9. The Andersonville National Historic Site is located just north of Americus, GA, 120 miles from Dothan. On-site there is a free Prisoner of War museum that chronicles the adversity faced by POWs in the civil war and many other conflicts. Faced with extreme deprivation, some prisoners snap or lose hope, many give up and die. Others in the exact same conditions maintain their optimism and survive. How does your position in Christ allow you to realistically tackle even the worst conditions with a mindset of abundance, hope and optimism?
10. How are lust and covetousness just byproducts of the “mindset of scarcity?”