

January 18, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

2 Cor. 9:8 *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.* (NIV)

It is important to recognize that this scripture follows an equally important exhortation from Paul to the church in Corinth. In verses 6-7 we read: **Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 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.** (NIV) So, in the process of being a giver we will also receive back from the LORD. I've said this many times and I believe it completely, that we cannot out give God. The LORD is able to take the sowing of a seed and make it abound into a great harvest. He will bless our giving more than we could ever think or imagine. **St. Francis of Assisi** once said, *"For it is in giving that we receive."*

What we may not initially realize is that when we give to the LORD and to others, we are releasing our grasp on something that is really not ours anyway. Since God is our LORD, everything we have has come from Him. He is the giver of all good things. He will watch over you and take care of you. **Ps. 37:25** *I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.* (NIV) And in **Ps. 112:9** we are reminded: *They have feely scattered their gifts to the poor, their righteousness endures forever; their horn will be lifted high in honor.* (NIV)

Today's word also reminds us that what we want is not always what we need. There have been things in my life that I really wanted, but I found out later that I really didn't need those things at all because they would have been a distraction from what the LORD had in store for me.

Dear LORD, You are so wise and loving towards Your children. You know what we need, when we need it and You are so faithful to provide. Help us to be givers and not takers. Help us to realize we are just stewards of what You have given us. Thank You LORD. In Jesus Name, Amen