GRATEFUL HEARTS, OPEN HANDS (2)
"Generosity That Overflows"
Text: 2 Corinthians 9:6–15

Big idea: God blesses cheerful, gospel-driven giving.

Introduction: Last Sunday we began our November series, *Grateful Hearts, Open Hands*. We began in Psalm 103, where David told his soul, "Forget not all His benefits." Because gratitude begins when we stop focusing only on what we do not have and start remembering what God has already given.
But today we take the next step. Genuine gratitude does not stay in the heart. Eventually, it reaches the hands. A grateful heart ought to produce open hands.

I. The <u>principle</u> of sowing: (v. 6)

You don't have to be a farmer to understand this…

A. The seed must be released. Seed sitting in the barn or bag does not produce a harvest.

B. The sowing reveals the measure. *Paul mentions two measurements, sparingly and bountifully. 2 Cor 8:12; Mk 12:41–44*

C. The harvest follows the sowing. *Do not reduce the harvest to a bigger bank account – we must consider the whole passage.*

Closed hands preserve seed temporarily. Open hands plant it eternally.

II. The <u>purpose</u> of the heart: — v. 7

A. Giving is personal. "*Let each of you…" Everyone can ask "Lord what would You have me to do with what You have entrusted to me?"*

B. Giving is planned. 7b) *Biblical generosity is not merely emotional impulse. There is thought, intention, and purpose…. (2 Cor. 9:5)*

C. Giving is pleasant, not pressured. (7c). *Paul gives two negatives and one positive. This is the heart of the verse.*

God is after something far deeper than a transaction; He wants our heart.

III. The <u>provision</u> of grace: — vv. 8–11

A. God supplies abundantly. — v. 8 "*God is able!"*
Paul wants us to lift our eyes from the size of "our" resources to the size of our God.

B. God secures sufficiency. — v. 8
Stanely: *God's grace supplies what is needed so the believer can continue in good works.*

C. God sends seed to sow. — vv. 10–11
Some provision is bread to eat. Some provision is seed to sow. (1 Tim. 6:17; Acts 20:35)

IV. The <u>praise</u> produced by generosity: — vv. 12–14

A. Needs are provided. — v. 12 *This is wonderfully practical. Js. 2:15–17; 1 Jn 3:17–18) Generosity gives love hands and feet.*

B. Thanksgiving is produced. — v. 12 *A believer gives. A need is met. The recipient thanks the Lord!*

C. The gospel is proven. — v. 13 *Paul here connects their generosity to their obedience to their confession of the gospel of Christ. Our giving does not produce salvation, it is a product of it.(Eph 2:8–10)*

D. Prayer is prompted. — v. 14 *pictures the recipients praying for the givers and longing for them because of the grace of God at work in them.*

V. The <u>pattern</u> of the gospel: — v. 15

A. The gift is indescribable. Too great for words! *2 Cor. 8:9; John 3:16*

B. The grace is incalculable. *You cannot put a dollar figure on Calvary!*

C. The Giver goes first. *God never asks us to practice a generosity He has refused to demonstrate.*

D. Our generosity becomes a response. *We give because He gave. - We love because He loved. - We bless because He blessed. - We show grace because we have received grace.*

Conclusion — *Let the Blessing Flow Through You*
Three questions for this week:

1. What has God put in my hand?
2. Who has God put in my path?
3. What would cheerful obedience look like?

Remember: God does not bless us merely so His goodness can stop with us. He blesses us so His grace can overflow through us.
"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" — 2 Corinthians 9:15
A grateful heart says, "Thank You, Lord." An open hand says, "Use me, Lord."