

Our goal in this series is to learn, or relearn, that we can give thanks to the Lord in all seasons of life. Whatever our circumstances, we can be thankful!

These children, you and I may never meet, will open a box and be so thankful that someone thought of them. They will be thankful that someone would show them love!

Amazingly, we are doing this, knowing that those children will never repay us or do anything for us, we are doing this purely as an expression and reflection of the love we have been shown in Christ.

That mindset can permeate our entire life! We bless others because we have been blessed and in turn, they are able to praise the Lord.

Text: 2 Corinthians 9:7-15

As we consider the reality that we are blessed to be a blessing, let's realize that by being a cheerful giver we can be used of the Lord to stir within someone else praise to his name.

I. How can we be the <u>reason</u> others are thankful?

A. Follow the <u>Spirit's</u> leading in our heart.
- Vs. 9:7-8

"We can be a conduit for someone else to recognize the grace and goodness of God, which may be the catalyst to them receiving that greatest gift, the gift of salvation."
(Vs. 9:11-12)

B. Faithfully giving <u>out</u> what we have been given.
- Vs. 9:9-10

"He, God, supplies what we are giving out and blesses what is given, producing more righteousness."
(1 Timothy 6:17-19)

We are <u>blessed</u> to be a blessing!

"Christ came to us, offering grace for the forgiveness of sins, he did so know we could never pay him back! Salvation is a gift!"

Application:
This is clear because of how Paul ends chapter 9, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable (indescribable) gift."

What is that gift? Listen to an excerpt from MacLaren's Expositions, *"There is one gift of God which, beyond all others, merits the designation of 'unspeakable.' The gift of Christ draws all other divine gifts after it. 'How should He not with Him also freely give us all things. Unspeakable means literally that which cannot be fully declared. Language fails because thought fails."*

The Apostle gives a declaration of thankfulness for Christ and how his love is working through the church, fulfilling what he said earlier, that their giving will cause "thanksgiving to God!"