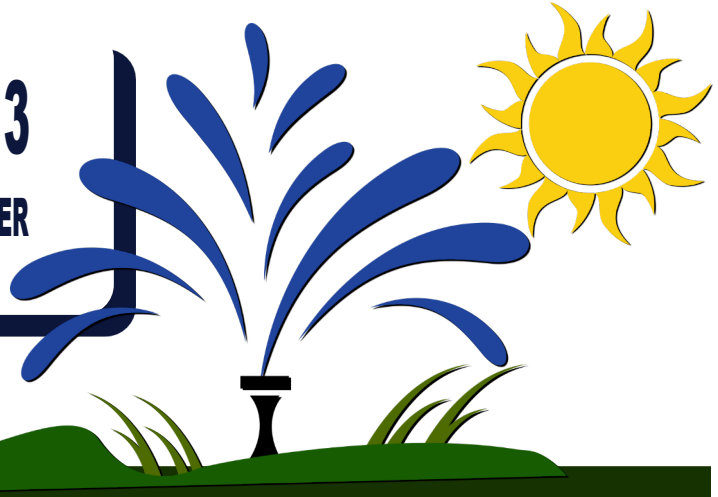


# AND BE THANKFUL, PART 3

## 5 PRINCIPLES OF THE BOUNTIFUL BLESSER



**PRINCIPLE #1:** Sow bountifully as if you are sowing the very blessings of God (because you are), 9:6.

- (2 Corinthians 9:6 ESV) The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, **and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**
- a. The word bountifully is also translated blessing, gift and benefit.

The word bountifully in the Greek is *εὐλογία* [*eulogia*] and means praise, laudation; an invocation of blessing; benediction; consecration; a (concrete) blessing, **benefit.**

To give bountifully is to give with a blessing, as an act of gracious kindness, with the intent of bringing blessing and with joyful generosity.

- (Proverbs 11:24–25 ESV) **One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;** another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. 25 **Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.**
- (Proverbs 22:9 ESV) **Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.**
- (Galatians 6:7 ESV) Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, **for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.**

The bountiful blessing sows bountifully because he is very conscious of the benefit received—the blessings of God that overflow from salvation in Jesus Christ.

- b. He sows blessings by keeping his tongue from evil.
  - (1 Peter 3:9–10 ESV) Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, **but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called,**

**that you may obtain a blessing.** 10 For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, **let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.**”

- c. He sows blessings by living by the word of God and not the counsel of humans.
  - (Psalm 1:1–2 ESV) **Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,** nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 **but his delight is in the law of the LORD,** and on his law he meditates day and night.
- d. He sows blessings by considering the poor.
  - (Psalm 41:1 ESV) **Blessed is the one who considers the poor!** In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him.
  - (Proverbs 14:21 ESV) Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, **but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.**
- e. He sows blessings by wisely accepting the discipline and instruction of the LORD.
  - (Psalm 94:12 ESV) **Blessed is the man whom you discipline,** O LORD, and whom you teach out of your law.
  - (Hebrews 12:11 ESV) **For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.**
- f. He sows blessings as he fears the LORD, delights in his word and walks in his ways.
  - (Psalm 112:1 ESV) Praise the LORD! **Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments!**
  - (Psalm 128:1 ESV) Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, **who walks in his ways!**

## **PRINCIPLE #2: Sow cheerfully from the heart, 9:7.**

- (2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV) **Each one must give as he has decided in his heart**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, **for God loves a cheerful giver**.
- a. The bountiful blesser gives cheerfully from the heart reflecting the joy-filled fruit of the Spirit.

## **PRINCIPLE #3: Sow freely in view of God's abounding grace, 9:8-9.**

- (2 Corinthians 9:8-9 ESV) **And God is able to make all grace abound to you**, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, **you may abound in every good work**. 9 As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."
- a. **The abounding grace principle:** The bountiful blesser lives in the abounding, sufficient grace of God.
  - (Ephesians 1:7-8 ESV) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, **according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight**.
- b. **The vessel principle:** The bountiful blesser knows he is a vessel for the blessing of God and that his every good work is the righteousness of God.
  - (John 3:21 ESV) But whoever does what is true comes to the light, **so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God**.
  - (2 Corinthians 4:7 ESV) But we have this treasure in jars of clay, **to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us**.

## **PRINCIPLE #4: Sow based on the abundance of the Supplier, 9:10-11.**

- (2 Corinthians 9:10-11 ESV) 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**. 11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, **which through us will produce thanksgiving to God**.
- a. The bountiful blesser sets his mind toward a life of righteousness.
  - (Hosea 10:12 ESV) **Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love**; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to

seek the LORD, **that he may come and rain righteousness upon you**.

- b. The "secret" to the generosity of the bountiful blesser is that God enriches him in every way.
  - (Ephesians 1:18 NLT) I pray that **your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called**—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.
  - (Ephesians 3:18-19 NLT) **And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God**.
- c. The bountiful blesser sets his mind on bringing thanksgiving to God.

## **PRINCIPLE #5: Sow with the intent of overflowing the saints in many thanksgivings to God, 9:12-15.**

- (2 Corinthians 9:12-15 ESV) For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints **but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God**. 13 By their approval of this service, **they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ**, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you, **because of the surpassing grace of God upon you**. 15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!
  - a. The bountiful blesser's vision of service is the overflowing of thanksgiving to God.
  - b. The bountiful blesser glorifies God in his generous service because of obedience that comes from his genuine confession of faith in the gospel of Christ.
  - c. In other words he serves in obedience to and conscious of the benefit received which is salvation in Christ.
  - d. The recipients of these blessings of God pray with deep affection for the vessel of blessing because of the overflowing grace God has given him.
  - e. The bountiful blesser likewise knows that his service is all grace and he thanks God for this inexpressible gift.