

welcome to the  
**fruit factory**  
What fruit is your life producing?



Pastor Hugh's Message Series Sundays 9am & 10:30am

**The Fruit of Blessings (2 Cor. 9:6-12)**  
**March 30, 2025**

**2 Cor. 9:6-12**

<sup>6</sup> But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written: (Ps. 112:9)

“He has dispersed abroad,  
He has given to the poor;  
His righteousness endures forever.”

<sup>10</sup> Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, <sup>11</sup> while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. <sup>12</sup> For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,

- A. Welcome to the Fruit Factory! As I have been sharing each week, as a Church and as Christians we are to be fruit factories for Jesus.

Your life should be producing the fruit of Jesus.  
And in fact, the longer you live for Jesus, the more fruit of Jesus you should produce.

- B. Last week we learned about the fruit of PRAISE, and God wants us to praise Jesus FOR His life, praise Him ALL my life, and praise Him WITH my life.

Today, we come to our final fruit, and it's the fruit of blessings.

- C. For 3 months I have been preaching on fruit.  
God has a lot to say about fruit.  
God so longs for you to be a fruit factory for Jesus.

But why?  
Why does God have so much to say about fruit?

Answer: Because God wants you to experience His blessings.

- D. We serve a God who is all about blessings.

Go back to the beginning; go back to Genesis and just listen what God told Abraham.

Gen. 12:1-3

Now the Lord had said to Abram:

“Get out of your country,

From your family

And from your father’s house,

To a land that I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> I will make you a great nation;

I will bless you

And make your name great;

And you shall be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,

And I will curse him who curses you;

And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

- E. And when Jesus began His ministry, guess the first words He preached to the people? BLESS

Mt. 5:3-10

“Blessed *are* the poor in spirit...

<sup>4</sup> Blessed *are* those who mourn...

<sup>5</sup> Blessed *are* the meek...

<sup>6</sup> Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...

<sup>7</sup> Blessed *are* the merciful...

<sup>8</sup> Blessed *are* the pure in heart...

<sup>9</sup> Blessed *are* the peacemakers...

<sup>10</sup> Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake...

- F. God is all about blessing you, and He wants you to experience His blessings.

How many of you want God’s blessings?

- G. Well, God teaches us about the fruit of blessings. Three thoughts God has for you concerning the fruit of blessings.

## 1. The Fruit of Blessings is about SOWING

2 Cor. 9:6

<sup>6</sup> But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

- A. If you desire God’s blessings in and through your life, you’ve got to sow; you’ve got to become a sower.

And in this context, Paul is talking about sowing materially and financially.

He’s talking about giving money for the advancement of ministry.

- B. I know we all know this, but let me remind you:  
Ministry takes money.

And in case you are a guest of Pearl today, know this:  
I don't do a ton of preaching about money.  
In fact, in the 7.5 years I have been here at Pearl, this is  
maybe the 4<sup>th</sup> time I have preached about money.

- C. But believe it or not, Jesus preached a lot about money.
- 15% of all Jesus' teaching was about money.
  - 40 parables – 11 were about money.

Jesus taught about money in His famous Sermon on the Mount

Mt. 6:19-21

<sup>19</sup> "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Jesus taught us to use money not for the temporal, but for the eternal; And it's more important to have the riches of Heaven than the riches of earth.

Jesus even told the rich young ruler, "Sell all your possessions and give to the poor and follow me."

- D. So, Jesus had some "hard sayings" about money.  
But they were actually "blessed sayings" about money.

Because Jesus wants you to realize, you will be blessed in your LIVING, when you are GRACIOUS in your GIVING.

- E. And that's what Paul says in 2 Cor. 9:6-7.  
What do I mean by being GRACIOUS in giving?

Gracious = a willingness to show favor; a willingness to be a blessing to others; a willingness to share with others what God has so graciously given us.

- F. So what does gracious giving look like?

It means:

**(1) I Give Generously**

<sup>6</sup> But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

- a) Paul gives you an earthly principle to teach you a Heavenly truth.  
And the earthly principle is about planting, gardening, farming; it's about sowing and reaping.

And here's the earthly principle:

Sow a little, get little.  
Sow a lot, get a lot.

ILL. I sowed my yard with grass seed.  
I didn't throw out a handful of seed.  
I threw out a 100 lbs. of grass seed.  
Why? Because I want a bumper crop.

- b) And the same is true when it comes to the fruit of God's blessings in your life.  
You should want a bumper crop of God's blessings.

But don't forget the principle:

**Give little. Get little (blessings).**  
**Give a lot. Get a lot (blessings).**

- c) That means this, every time you have opportunity to be a blessing to God by giving your time, talents, or treasures, don't think what's the least can I give? Think: what's the most can I give?

Because God wants you to reap the most blessings.

And gracious giving also means:

## **(2) I Give Heartfully**

2 Cor. 9:7

<sup>7</sup> So *let* each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity;

- a) It is not God's heart for you to give reluctantly or dutifully.

In fact, Paul says don't give grudgingly.  
The word means "out of grief," "out of sorrow"  
In other words, you're giving, but you're sad about doing it.

And the reason you're sad, is because you are thinking about what you're giving up. You're thinking about what you're going to miss.

- b) That's the wrong attitude. You should be thinking about what you're going to get. You should be thinking about the blessings God's going to give.

Because God just told you:

Give little. Get little.  
Give a lot. Get a lot.

We should never have a reluctant spirit when it comes to giving, especially knowing that your giving gives such a great return.

- c) But neither should you feel OBLIGATED to give. Paul says, “not grudgingly or of necessity;”

In other words, you should never feel forced to give.

ILL. PICTURE: This week, read about Preacher who held a Christian conference at his church. During the offering, ordered the ushers to shut the doors until they collected \$40K to cover expenses.

I pray you never feel forced to give at Pearl.  
I pray you never feel coerced by anyone here at Pearl.

We don't even pass on offering plate.  
We have offering baskets at the entrance for you to give your tithes & offerings.

- d) And here's what I believe is God's heart when it comes to giving:  
He wants you to give from your heart.

v. 7 Paul said, “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart.”

That means, God wants you to give WHATEVER is on your heart and WHAT is on your heart.

- e) People have often asked me, how much should I give to God? Should I give 10% of my net or my gross?  
Ultimately, that's a question you should ask God.

And in fact, Jesus actually preached to His disciples “The Sermon on the Amount.”

PICTURE:

When Jesus was at the temple, He watched a poor widow put in the treasury 2 copper coins (like 2 pennies, in fact, much less); but that was all she had.

She didn't give 10%. How much did she give? She gave 100%.

She didn't give to God according to her checkbook. She gave to God according to her HEART.

And that's how God wants you to give.  
Because God knows, when He has your heart, you're not thinking how little can I give?  
You're thinking how much can I give?

You do that for your kids.  
You do that for your grandkids.  
Why? Because they have your heart.

And when you give big time to God you get back big blessings from God.

I give Heartfully.

But gracious giving also means:

### **(3) I Give Cheerfully**

2 Cor 9:7 for God loves a cheerful giver.

a) Cheerful – is actually the word “Hilarious.”

God loves hilarious givers.

In other words, you are thrilled to give to God.

You are delighted and excited about bringing your gift to God.

In other words, you are full of joy giving to God.

b) And when God sees your heart, it thrills His heart. Because your heart is saying to God, “You’re worth it.” “You’re wonderful.” “And what I am sowing today is going to bless me tomorrow.”

What a great word about SOWING!

The fruit of blessing is about SOWING.

## **2. The Fruit of Blessings is about SHOWING**

2 Cor. 9:8

<sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

A. Why does God want us to give? So He can show you just how generous He is to you. He wants you to see that He is a God of great blessings.

So, let me share with you 2 good reasons for giving to God.

### **(1) You’re just giving what God’s given.**

In other words, you’re not giving away your thing.

You’re giving away God’s thing.

Because whatever you have in your checkbook, your bank account, your home, your possession... Who gave that to you? God gave that to you.

You didn’t get that by yourself. God gave that to you.

And so when you give, guess what you are really doing? You’re just giving what He gave.

That’s when giving becomes good, because you know when you give it, you’re just giving away what God’s given.

### **(2) When you give, God’s going to give back.**

2 Cor. 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

2 Cor. 9:10

<sup>10</sup> Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,

What's Paul saying? He's saying God always gives you a great return on your investment.

He's saying when you give to God, you can expect He's going to give back to you.

And notice, He's going to give sufficiently and abundantly.

In fact, Paul uses a form of the word "all" 5 times in verse 8.

2 Cor. 9:8

And God is able to make **all** grace abound toward you, that you, **always** having **all** sufficiency in **all** things, may have an abundance for **every** good work.

What's Paul's point? His point is that God's blessings back to you are unlimited. In other words, when you give to God, He's going to pour out His blessings on you – and more than you can imagine; in abundance.

Why? Because He knows you are giving away what He's given to you, and He's going to give you more so you can give more.

- B. And do you know what your giving really says to God? It says, "God, I believe you. I trust you."

I can write a generous check for that need that you have put upon my heart, and I trust You're going to give me a greater return.

In other words, **YOU CAN'T OUTGIVE GOD!**

- C. Ex. **Dr. Charles Stanley** – church was purchasing land God impressed upon him to sell all his camera equipment. He gave the money to the building fund. Several months later, a lady delivered a package to Dr. Stanley's home, and inside was all his camera equipment. God had returned his gift.

**Dr. Robert Jeffress** – his first job was working for a Christian bookstore making minimum wage; His church wanted to start a bus ministry to reach kids for Jesus. God impressed upon him to write a check for \$700.

And Robert played the accordion, and God provided multiple side jobs and he more than made back the money he gave.

Mal. 3:10-11

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,

That there may be food in My house,

And try Me now in this,”

Says the Lord of hosts,

“If I will not open for you the windows of heaven

And pour out for you *such* blessing

That *there will not be room enough to receive it.*

- D. And that’s what God says to all of us.  
Trust Me. And obey Me. And watch Me bless you with more than you had.

The fruit of blessing is about SHOWING – showing you God’s will come back to you.

### 3. The Fruit of Blessings is about GROWING

2 Cor 9:11-12

<sup>11</sup> while *you are* enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. <sup>12</sup> For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,

- A. What’s Paul saying?  
He’s saying your giving grows people’s faith in God.

The Corinthians gave generously and heartedly and cheerfully to the Jerusalem church who had some huge needs, and their gift not only met that church’s needs, but it grew their faith in God.

In other words, it grew their heart for God.

- B. And that’s what God does with your giving.  
**Your giving grows people’s heart for God.**

Do you know why God is bringing more and more people to Pearl?

Do you know why 60+% of our people are involved in Grow Groups?

Do you know why there’s such excitement about worship & the Word?

Do you know why God is sending people on missions?

Do you know why we are watching the building of a new worship center and expecting God to fill it up to overflow?

It’s because you have a heart for giving to God.

- C. And God takes your gifts and brings growth.

Every time you give, God uses those gifts to grow people’s heart to worship God, to work for God, to witness for God, to win people to God.



He uses your gifts to grow people's heart to know, grow, show, and go for God.

- D. And every time you see someone baptized, and every time you see a family join our church, and every time you hear a testimony of God goodness, and every time you see a host of people worshipping Jesus, know it is because there's a host of people giving their time, talents, and treasures to God.

And God is pouring out His blessings upon us here at Pearl.

- E. And where there is great giving, there's great growth.

And that's the fruit of God's blessings.

And how thankful I am to be part of church that is experiencing the fruit of God's blessings.

Conclusions:

And if you want to see God do greater things, just give more than before. Don't give the least you can. Give the most you can.

And watch God give you greater blessings.

And watch God give greater blessings to Pearl.

Not because we deserve it.

But because Jesus is worth it.

Amen?