

RISKING ALL FOR LOVE**Sowing Generously****2 Corinthians 8:16—9:15***“...for God loves a cheerful giver” 2 Cor. 9:7***Day 1: Read 2 Corinthians 8:16–24.**

1. Who is it that puts “concern” for people (vs. 16) into a person’s heart? What then should you do if you realize you lack concern or love for others?
2. Paul has often made it clear that it is God’s judgment, not man’s, that he cares about (1 Cor. 4:3). Why do you think he now considers it so important that people see him and other church leaders as handling the money offerings of the churches in a godly and ethical way (vss. 19–20)? (2 Cor. 6:3)
3. Again in verse 24 Paul urges the Corinthians to show proof of their love, and to vindicate Paul’s pride and boasting about them “so that the churches can see it” (vs. 24). Has Paul lately reverted to a religion of outward show? Explain.

Day 2: Read 2 Corinthians 9:1–5.

4. What here is the effect on other believers when one group of Christians shows eagerness in the work of the Lord? (vs. 2)
5. Paul is being tactful. What seems to have happened to the Corinthians’ early eagerness to contribute to the financial needs of their sister churches? (Read between the lines in verses 1–4.)
6. Why is Paul sending a few brothers ahead of him to make sure the Corinthians’ money offering is prepared? What kind of confrontation does the apostle want to avoid at his later visit?

Day 3: Read 2 Corinthians 9:5–6.

7. Paul loves the Corinthians enough to want them to do right and not want to embarrass or shame them. Do we always want that, and go out of our way to prevent a brother from sinning, or do we sometimes delight in someone’s failing so that we can look good or lord it over him or her? Consider 1 Cor. 13:6.

8. What are two possible ways of giving, and which does Paul seek from the Corinthians? (vs. 5b)
9. In verse 6, what is the principle that Paul states emphatically?
10. Do you think Paul is talking in verse 6 about money only? And yet, why is our open-handedness with money a good gauge of our heart condition?

Day 4: Read 2 Corinthians 9:6–11.

11. What kind of giver does God love? (vs. 7) Examine your own heart as a giver.
12. Generous giving comes with promises. What are they? (vss. 8, 10)
13. What are we believers—those who have been saved from hell and who possess all things in Christ!—to abound in for the rest of our lives? (vs. 8b; Eph. 4:11–12)
14. How does God distribute gifts (vs. 9)? What are some of the gifts you have from God that you might use for his kingdom? (Try to think beyond talents.)
15. Verses 10 and 11 seem to reiterate and reinforce verse 8. What do words like “abound” (vs. 8) and “enlarge” (vs. 10) and “made rich” (vs. 11) and “on every occasion” (vs. 11) signal about God’s blessing on your giving?

Day 5: Read 2 Corinthians 9:12–15.

16. What two benefits does our financial sharing with others accrue? (vs. 12)
17. In genuine faith, what will always accompany our confession of Christ? (vs. 13)
18. It becomes evident in verses 13 and 14—if it wasn’t already—that Paul, like Jesus, is supremely zealous for what virtue in the church? (John 17:23; Rom. 15:5–6)
19. What is “his indescribable gift” (vs. 15)? (1 Jn. 4:9–11)