

Reckless Love

“G.E.N.E.R.O.U.S.”

What is involved in Becoming a G.E.N.E.R.O.U.S. Giver?

G – Giving Maxim: I must give up to *Give Up!*

- **2 Cor. 8:2-5:** *“In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.”*

E – Excellence is required.

- **2 Cor. 8:7:** *“But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”*

N – Note to self: don’t forget the law of the harvest.

- **2 Cor. 9:6:** *“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”*

E – Execution is dependent upon an *attitude of gratitude*.

- **2 Cor. 9:7:** *“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

R – Reality check: I give to get more so *I can give more*.

- **2 Cor. 9:8-11a:** *“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written: ‘They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.’¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion....”*

O – Obedience is a *catalyst* to worship.

- **2 Cor. 9:11b-12:** *“...and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. ¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.”*

U – Unselfishness reveals the reality of God’s grace in my life.

- **2 Cor. 9:13-14:** *“Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.”*

S – Sacrificial giving flows naturally from a “blown away” worshipful heart.

- **2 Cor. 9:15:** *“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”*

