



GREATER BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.

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Generosity and Joy

2 Corinthians 9:7

January 27, 2026

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.

1. Background & Context

- Paul is encouraging the Corinthian church to complete a promised offering for needy believers in Jerusalem.
- The focus is **not the amount**, but **the attitude of the giver**.
- Giving is presented as an act of worship, not pressure.

2. Phrase-by-Phrase Teaching

A. “What you have decided in your heart.”

- Giving is **intentional**, not impulsive.
- The heart reflects personal conviction and prayerful decision.
- God values **thoughtful obedience**, not emotional manipulation.

Cross-References:

- Proverbs 16:1
- Luke 21:1–4 (the widow’s offering)

B. “Not grudgingly/reluctantly.”

- “Grudgingly” means reluctantly or with resentment.
- God is not honored when giving feels like a loss rather than a privilege.

Cross-References:

- Deuteronomy 15:10
- Malachi 1:13

C. “Or of necessity (compulsion).”

- Giving should never be driven by guilt, fear, or coercion.
- Christian giving flows from **grace**, not obligation.

Cross-References:

- Romans 8:15
- 2 Corinthians 8:9

D. “For God loveth a cheerful giver.”

- “Cheerful” comes from the Greek *hilaros*—willing, joyful, glad-hearted.
- God delights in the spirit behind the gift more than the gift itself.

Cross-References:

- Acts 20:35
- Proverbs 11:25

3. Key Truths to Emphasize

- God measures **faithfulness**, not finances.
- Giving is an act of worship and trust.
- Cheerful giving reflects confidence in God’s provision.

Breakout Room Questions:

1. Why do you think God wants giving to be decided in the heart first?
2. What can cause giving to become grudging rather than joyful?
3. How can churches encourage generosity without applying pressure?
4. What does cheerful giving reveal about our view of God?

5. Closing Challenge

Ask participants to reflect:

- *Do I give out of love for God or out of habit or pressure?*
- *Is my giving joyful, intentional, and faith-filled?*