

# God Provides Enough for Every Good Work

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**Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Malachi 3:8-12**

August 30, 2026 - Week 5 of Sermon Series: "Fruitful Stewards"

**Key Sentence:** *God provides for us not so that every blessing will stop with us, but so that God's grace may flow through us into every good work.*

Grace and peace to you in the name of God our Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today we come to the final week of our August sermon series, **"Fruitful Stewards: Faithful with All God Has Given."** During this month, God has been leading us step by step into a deeper understanding of stewardship.

*In the first week*, we began with the foundation: everything belongs to God. We are not absolute owners. Our lives, our time, our abilities, our money, our buildings, and our opportunities are gifts entrusted to us by God.

*In the second week*, Jesus reminded us, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." We learned that our financial choices are spiritual choices because our treasure quietly leads our hearts.

*In the third week*, we reflected on firstfruits. We remembered the Giver, and we learned that God deserves our first and best, not simply whatever happens to remain after everything else has been satisfied. We also said, "Today's harvest contains tomorrow's seed."

*Last Sunday*, Jesus told us, "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much." We learned that God does not ask us first to be impressive. God asks us to be faithful with what has been placed in our hands.

**Today**, as we bring this series to a close, the Apostle Paul gives us a beautiful picture of what fruitful stewardship looks like. He says, "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

Notice what Paul does not say. He does not promise that every faithful Christian will become wealthy. He does not say that if we give enough money, we will never experience financial difficulty. Paul says that God provides enough so that God's people may participate in every good work. God's blessing has a purpose. God blesses us so that we may become a blessing.

So today I would like us to reflect on three movements:

*First, God Is the One Who Provides*

*Second, Faithful Giving Teaches Us to Trust God*

*Third, God's Blessings Are Meant to Flow Through Us*

The key sentence for today is this:

*"God provides for us not so that every blessing will stop with us, but so that God's grace may flow through us into every good work."*

## First, God Is the One Who Provides

Paul writes, *"The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing."* What a beautiful image. God provides the seed. God provides the bread. God provides the opportunity for another harvest.

Paul is reminding the Corinthians of something we have been saying throughout this entire series: God is the source. We work. We plan. We save. We prepare. But underneath everything we do is the grace and provision of God.

Those who have lived many years know this. You can look backward over decades and see seasons when you had more than enough. You can also remember seasons when finances were tight. There may have been difficult farming years, job changes, medical expenses, family needs, or times when the future felt uncertain.

And yet here you are. God has carried you. Not always by giving everything you wanted. Not always by making life easy. But God has given grace for each season. Sometimes provision came through income. Sometimes through family. Sometimes through the church. Sometimes through another person. Sometimes through wisdom to live more simply. Sometimes through strength to face one more day.

*"God is the Provider, and everything we have is first received before it is ever managed or shared."*

There is something important in Paul's image of seed. Seed can be used in more than one way. Some becomes bread for today, but some must become seed for tomorrow. If a farmer consumed every seed after the harvest, there would be nothing to plant for the next season.

That is wise stewardship. We use part of what God provides for legitimate needs: food, housing, healthcare, transportation, family responsibilities, retirement, and church expenses. But faithful stewardship also asks, "What portion should become seed? What portion should become generosity? What portion should support ministry? What portion should bless another person or prepare something for the next generation?"

God provides not merely for consumption. God also provides seed for sowing. That is why stewardship is not about fearfully holding everything in our hands. It is about receiving gratefully, using wisely, and trusting God enough to sow some of what God has given.

## Second, Faithful Giving Teaches Us to Trust God

This brings us back to an important teaching from Malachi that I intentionally want us to recover before we finish this series. In Malachi 3, God says to Israel, "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse."

The word tithe simply means a tenth. In the life of Israel, tithing became a regular and intentional pattern through which God's people supported worship, the work of ministry, and the needs of the covenant community. The point was not merely the number. The tithe taught God's people to put God first.

Malachi speaks to a people who had begun withholding what should have been offered to God. The prophet asks a very strong question: "Will anyone rob God?" Then God says, "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse," and remarkably adds, "Test me in this."

We must understand this carefully. Malachi is not giving us a formula for becoming rich. The message is not, "Give God ten dollars and God must give you twenty." God is not an investment program, and tithing does not purchase God's favor. The deeper issue in Malachi is covenant faithfulness and trust.

*"The tithe is not a payment to God; it is a practice of trusting God."*

The people were tempted to say, "We must hold tightly to everything because we need to protect ourselves." God was calling them to trust: "Put me first. Remember that I am your Provider. Let your giving become an act of faith."

That is why the tithe can still be a helpful spiritual discipline for Christians today. It reminds us that God comes first. It reminds us that everything belongs to God. It teaches us to make generosity intentional rather than accidental. And it helps us resist the fear that says we can never afford to share.

At the same time, the New Testament does not tell us that salvation is purchased by giving ten percent. Paul says that each person should give as they have decided in their heart, "not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Christian giving grows from grace, gratitude, and willing faith.

So we should never use the tithe as a weapon. We should not look at the person beside us and ask, "Are you giving ten percent?" God knows every household and every circumstance. Some retired members live on carefully planned fixed incomes. Some have medical expenses. Some are helping children or grandchildren. The goal is not comparison. The goal is faithfulness.

Perhaps ten percent is a helpful biblical benchmark. For some it may be a beginning. For others, God has enabled them to give beyond it. For someone in a difficult financial season, the immediate faithful step may look different. But every Christian can ask a deeper question: "Does my giving show that I trust God and place God first?"

Firstfruits and tithing point us in the same direction: first, intentional, regular, faithful. We do not give because God is poor. We give because our hearts need to learn trust.

### **Third, God's Blessings Are Meant to Flow Through Us**

Now we return to 2 Corinthians 9. Paul says, "You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity." Again, Paul does not say, "You will become wealthy so that you can live more luxuriously." He says that generosity produces thanksgiving to God.

God gives to us. We give to others. Others receive help. And thanksgiving rises to God. It becomes a circle of grace. God's blessing comes to us and then moves through us. That is fruitful stewardship.

Think about water flowing through a river. When the water continues moving, it brings life. It nourishes. It refreshes. It serves everything along its path. But when water does not move, it can become stagnant. God's blessings are not meant to become stagnant within us. They are meant to flow.

Some blessings flow through money. Some through time. Some through hospitality. Some through prayer. Some through experience. Some through wisdom. Some through service. Some through encouragement.

For those who have reached retirement, perhaps you possess a kind of wealth younger people do not yet have. You have years. You have stories. You have perspective. You have experienced God through many seasons. You know that not every crisis lasts forever. You know that grief changes us, but God remains present. You know that plans change and churches change, but God is still faithful.

Perhaps one of the greatest gifts you can offer is to say to someone younger, "I have walked through difficult seasons too, and God remained faithful." That is generosity. Your wisdom can flow. Your prayers can flow. Your encouragement can flow. Your faith can flow into another generation.

This is important for both CPC Plainview and CPC Rochester. God has entrusted our congregations with buildings, property, financial resources, faithful members, history, experience, and community relationships. These blessings should not simply stop with us.

We should ask: How can our buildings bless people? How can our finances strengthen ministry? How can we reduce unnecessary financial burdens so that more resources may support worship, children and youth, pastoral care, mission, and community service? How can we welcome new people? How can we care for those who are lonely? How can we prepare for those who will worship here after we are gone?

*"The goal of stewardship is not merely to have resources; the goal is for God's resources to bear fruit for God's kingdom."*

A balanced budget matters. Responsible planning matters. Paying our obligations matters. But those are not the final goal. A congregation can have money in the bank and still be spiritually poor. A church with modest resources can be extraordinarily rich in generosity, prayer, love, service, and mission.

So the question is not simply, "How much do we have?" The question is, "Are God's blessings flowing through us?"

## **Enough for Every Good Work**

Paul uses a beautiful word in this passage: enough. God provides enough. That may be one of the hardest words for our culture to accept because our culture constantly tells us, "You need more." More possessions. More comfort. More security. More savings. More of almost everything.

Wise planning is good. Saving is good. Preparing for retirement is good. Caring for family is good. But there comes a spiritual moment when we must ask, "When is enough actually enough?"

If we never recognize enough, generosity will always be postponed. We may say, "When I have a little more, then I will give. When everything is completely secure, then I will become generous." But that perfect day may never arrive.

*"If we never recognize enough, generosity will always be postponed."*

Paul says God gives enough for every good work. Enough does not mean we possess everything we desire. Enough means that God provides what enables us to live faithfully. Perhaps one of the greatest spiritual freedoms is being able to say, "Thank you, God. I have enough, and because I have received enough, I can share."

## **Christ Is God's Indescribable Gift**

Paul ends this entire teaching about giving with a surprising sentence. He does not finish with money. He does not finish with percentages. He does not finish with a budget. He says, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

That indescribable gift is Jesus Christ. This is where all Christian stewardship must end. Before we ever gave to God, God gave to us. Before we loved God, God loved us. Before we offered anything, God offered Christ.

Jesus gave himself for us. At the cross, Christ did not give ten percent of himself. Christ gave himself completely. Through his death and resurrection, we receive forgiveness, grace, reconciliation, hope, new life, and eternal life.

That is why Christian generosity is never an attempt to purchase blessing. We have already received the greatest blessing. We do not tithe so that God will love us. We give because God already loves us. We do not give so that God will save us. We give because salvation has been freely offered in Christ.

*"God's blessings come to us so that God's grace may flow through us."*

When the grace of Jesus Christ enters the heart, our hands begin to open. We discover the joy of receiving gratefully, managing wisely, giving faithfully, and sharing generously.

## Conclusion

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today we conclude our August journey as Fruitful Stewards. So let us remember what God has taught us.

Everything belongs to God. Where our treasure is, our hearts will follow. Honor God with the first and best. Be faithful in little and faithful in much. And now: God provides enough for every good work.

So let us trust the Provider. Let us practice faithful and intentional giving. Let the tithe remind us that God comes first. Let generosity teach our hearts to trust. And let God's blessings flow through us - through our money, our buildings, our time, our experience, our wisdom, our prayers, and our lives.

May CPC Plainview become a channel of God's generosity. May CPC Rochester become a channel of God's generosity. May our blessings never simply stop with us. May they flow into our children, our grandchildren, our neighbors, our communities, and the generations yet to come.

And when fear tells us, "There may not be enough," may faith answer, "God is able." When selfishness tells us, "Keep everything," may grace answer, "I have received so that I may share." And when we wonder what the greatest treasure is, may we look again to Jesus Christ and say with Paul, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

For God provides for us not so that every blessing will stop with us, but so that God's grace may flow through us into every good work.

Therefore, let us receive gratefully, manage wisely, give faithfully, share generously, and become fruitful stewards of everything God has given.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Reference Notes

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