



Sowing is Ministering

We may never have considered the criticality of sowing with regard to ministering, but sowing *is* a critical component of ministering. Sowing is a direct form of ministering. Without it, there would be no abundant sharing ministering taking place. Never to be disregarded is the truth that we are to sow so that we lay a solid foundation of blessings for self and others.

(2 Cor 9:6 KJV) **But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.**

Word Study:

(2 Cor 9:6 KJV) But this I say, [*I say is NIT (not in the Greek Text)*] He which soweth [speiro – contains the idea of ‘extending’ to scatter] sparingly [pheidomenos – stingily, abstemiously] shall reap [therizo – to har-



vest] also sparingly [pheidomenos – stingily, abstemiously]; and he which soweth [speiro – contains the idea of ‘extending’ to scatter] bountifully [eulogia – blessings, fine speaking, elegance of language, commendation—on [epi – blessings] shall reap [therizo – to harvest] also bountifully [eulogia – blessings, fine speaking, elegance of language, commendation].

Notes on ‘bountifully’:

Two Greek words comprise this single English word bountifully—epi and eulogiasis. Literally, bountifully should be rendered ‘upon blessings.’

This same word, eulogia, is present twice in verse 5, but without the added word epi. ‘Blessings’ is the proper translation for bounty.

(2 Cor 9:5 KJV) **Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up before hand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.**

Please refer to last month’s Artios. In verse 5, eulogia is translated ‘bounty’, but I chose ‘commendation’ since it refers to fine speaking, elegance of language, commendation (as in a eulogy). I didn’t mention there, but the idea of reverence and adoration is implied. I also didn’t mention that Paul was encouraging the believers to build upon a foundation of blessings. By extension, the translators reached ‘benefit’ or ‘largess*’, and blessing as

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a matter of bounty or fair speech. When you share of your abundance, you are offering your blessings to others. When you give, you are laying a foundation of blessings, not only for the recipient, but also for you.

Notes on 'epi—upon':

Different from verse 5, in verse 6, another word accompanies eulogia. That word is epi and is to be translated upon. The entire phrase should be rendered 'upon blessings.' Implied is something resting upon something, as a house would rest upon a foundation. It forms a basis that may be actual or moral.

Literal:

Please note the word order which places great emphasis on each particular activity.

But this, he that scatters stingily stingily shall also harvest; and he that scatters a foundation of blessings, upon blessings also shall harvest.

No question as to quantity of scattering exists. There are only two possible ways to minister—stingily or upon blessings.

Ministering has entirely to do with blessing self and others.

Critical to ministering with abundant sharing is the importance of repeatedly laying a strong foundation of blessings.

You are to be commended because of your giving; never is a believer to cling so tightly to his abundance that he is seen as being stingy.

Freely give from your abundance. If you don't have abundance, something almost un-relatable in this day and time, then don't give. But, a word of caution—sowing abundant sharing is proof that you live your life according to agape. Strive to believe, to pray, to use the name of Jesus Christ—so that you have blessings to build upon and to sow.

(2 Cor 8:12 KJV) For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted [well-received] according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

Give part of your abundance, firstly out of proper Christian behavior, and secondly

out of the demand for equality.

(2 Cor 8:14 KJV) But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality:

Ministering by sowing abundant sharing is literally proof of agape.

(2 Cor 8:24 KJV) Wherefore show ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love [agape], and of our boasting on your behalf.

The greater abundance that fills the storehouse, the greater ministering within the Church that can take place. Join the *sowing* movement and live freely.

Much love in Christ.

Jerry D. Brown

* Largess—Liberality in bestowing gifts, especially in a lofty or condescending manner.