



## The Standard of Ministering—Part III

**P**arts 1 and 2 covered 2 Corinthians 9:7, except for the last part of verse 7.

(2 Cor 9:7 KJV) Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

This *Artios, Part 3*, will cover ‘for God loveth a cheerful giver.’

### God

‘God’ comes from the Greek word theos. Theos is used 1344 times in the New Testament, the first time is as follows:

(Mat 1:23 KJV) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us**.



Theos means, ‘the supreme divinity.’ According to Bullinger, Theos is used in the New Testament ‘of the Father, as the revealed God.’

### Loveth

Loveth comes from the Greek word agapao, meaning, disciplined behavior according to the agape characteristics listed in 1 Corinthians 13. God manifests the most sterling of behavior to those who abundantly share.

### Cheerful

Cheerful comes from the Greek word hilaros, meaning propitious or merry.

Another version of hilaros is used in Romans 12:8 and is translated ‘cheerfulness.’

(Rom 12:8 KJV) Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with **cheerfulness** [hilarotes].

Showing merciful acts requires showing merriment too.

Both versions of this word imply merriment. Propitious indicates a favorable circumstance yielding positive results. Hilarity comes to mind. When you give, do so with merriment and hilarity. Why? Because God loves this way of giving. Can you imagine God giving to you without this frame of mind?

### Giver

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Giver comes from the Greek word dotes meaning, ‘giver, one who gives.’ The root of dotes is didomi meaning, ‘to give.’

## Other Places in the Bible:

Depending on which Bible version and source you access, you’ll find different renderings of this part of this verse. For instance, read Proverbs 22:9 from the Hebrew and new light will remain obscure.

(Prov 22:9 KJV) He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

But, using the Septuagint, the Greek sourced Old Testament, you can get closer to our verse:

“8α God loves a cheerful and liberal man.” <https://www.ellopos.net/elpenor/greek-texts/septuagint/chapter.asp?book=26&page=22>

Bullinger references yet another Septuagint source, one that I could not find; there are many; that version said it this way:

“God blesseth a cheerful giver.”

## Literal

God manifests great love and blessings to those who give with hilarity.

I trust these three parts have exploded your understanding of the Standard of Ministering. Giving in the Christian Church is no small matter. God has assigned a specific standard that he expects us all to conform to. The next time you abundantly share, do so with a happy heart, not under any form of constraint, and see what transpires thereafter. I think you’ll be pleasantly surprised. Truly, God loves you in ways deeper and more wonderful that you can imagine.

Much Love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown