

TOOLKIT FOR LIFE | OFFERING – EXPANDING JOY

2 Corinthians 9:5-15

Have you ever watched the delight in a child's face when they give a handmade gift? That joy is a glimpse of God's heart, and it is contagious. We're going to explore the fascinating intersection of current research and Biblical witness to the joy of giving, as we discover offering as a tool to experience deeper joy, purpose, and freedom.

PREPARING

Day 1: Read 2 Corinthians 9:5-7.

Practice: Take a quiet moment today and pray: "God, prepare my heart to offer freely, of myself, my time, and my love."

Reflection: What helps generosity feel joyful and free rather than pressured or forced? When have I experienced joy, in place of reluctance, in the act of offering or giving?

NOTICING

Day 2: Read 2 Corinthians 9:8-10

Practice: Name 3 ways God has provided for you this week (small and ordinary counts).

Reflection: Where in my life do I already have "enough", even if it doesn't feel like abundance?

RELEASING

Day 3: Read Luke 12:13-15.

Practice: Gently notice one worry that comes from fear of not having enough. Offer it to God in this simple prayer: "God, I release my fear about _____ into your care."

Reflection: Where do I find myself slipping into scarcity thinking? What happens in my life when fear of "not enough" takes the lead?

SHARING

Day 4: Read 2 Corinthians 9:11.

Practice: Intentionally offer one act of generosity today – encouragement, patience, listening, help, a gift – without an agenda and without expecting anything in return.

Reflection: Who benefits, beyond the receiver, when generosity flows freely? How does God's generosity flow *through* me rather than stop with me?

GIVING THANKS

Day 5: Read 2 Corinthians 9:12.

Practice: In prayer, give thanks to God for the ways your life and your community are shaped and sustained by the sharing of God's gifts.

Reflection: How does gratitude change the way I think about what I have? How does giving thanks impact my faith and deepen joy in the practice of offering?

WITNESSING

Day 6: Read 2 Corinthians 9:13-15.

Practice: Pray for someone who will benefit from generosity, through your offering or the offerings of the church, and thank God for how giving connects us to one another.

Reflection: How does the practice of offering, sharing in joyful generosity, help others see God more clearly? How can my offering point beyond me and toward God?

The spiritual tool of offering isn't simply giving money, but engaging in the practice of noticing and participating in God's abundance. Offering isn't something we're called to do just once a year or during an offering plate moment. It's a posture shaped by gratitude, trust, and joy – one practice at a time. Each and every day, we're invited to engage the tool of offering to experience the joy that comes from a life of sharing and generosity.

Offering isn't about giving something away; it's about unleashing God's joy.