

Devotion 14
God Will Do His Part (#2)

Saturday, Week 2

Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. (2 Corinthians 9:10-11)

When you, the people of God at Trinity, called me to be your Pastor in January of '07, it took weeks for me to have a sense of peace about God's will. But once it came, I was ready to go! However, Karen's preschool teaching year wasn't over until May—she felt horrible about leaving the little ones and our church's preschool in a transition situation in the middle of the school year. The housing market in our community was tumbling down, so it most certainly wouldn't sell quickly. And then a unique—and yes, strange and awkward—thing happened: The church I was leaving asked if I could stay until after Easter—they would pay me until June 1st if Trinity and I agreed. Well, things began to fall into place. Trinity agreed that it might actually be good for Trinity to have a few months “on your own without a pastor” after Pastor Steinke left in April. And it sure would be nice to stay with Karen until the end of the school year to take care of housing and moving business. Because of this generosity on your part, and theirs, I got a month's paid “sabbatical” in May. The house in Ohio sold. We arrived in June. You provided a nice parsonage for us rent-free. We were fortunate to find a new home to move into in July.

Why do I write this? Through all of this my family and I have experienced God's promise as stated by Paul in our text. Through you and others, God has “made us rich in every way,” as you not only helped us in our physical needs, but also surrounded us with your love, kindness, and emotional—as well as spiritual—support. Through your love and support, not only in the ways stated above but in many others, as well as in your great and joyful partnership in the ministry itself, you have so enriched us that you have empowered us to “enlarge the harvest of our righteousness” as we have been built up in Christ through you to work in His is kingdom. Because of you, I have seen the power of this verse and the mysterious ways it plays out in our lives.

But finally, this devotion is not about me but about you. God promises in the above text that He will make each of us rich in every way so that we might be **GENEROUS** on every occasion. Do you believe this promise? Sometimes His ways are mysterious, but He always keeps His promises! In what ways has He made you rich so that you might be generous? Where is He calling you to walk by faith in this promise?

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for making each of us rich in the riches of Christ, our Savior. Open our eyes—every single one of us—so to trust in Your provision of body, soul, mind, and spirit and in Your promise to “supply and increase our store of seed” that we might boldly give generously on every occasion as Your Spirit leads us. Amen.