

Biblical Foundations

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

—2 Corinthians 9:6–9 NIV

Here is a fun trivia question. How many kernels of corn could you get from one seed of corn? Hint: The average plant produces two good ears of corn, and each ear produces about 800 kernels of corn. Pull out your calculator if you need it. I'll wait

If you guessed 1,600, that's a good guess. However, that is not the correct answer. Keep thinking.

Did you happen to guess 2,560,000? The gears are turning, and that's good. That means you're starting to get it. But curiously, that answer is also incorrect.

How about 4.096 *billion*? No, that isn't it, either. But perhaps you're beginning to understand.

By planting one seed, you can produce 1,600 seeds. Planting those seeds will lead to 2,560,000. And planting those seeds will lead to 4,096,000,000. But it doesn't stop there. You can continue planting and harvesting seeds ad infinitum, leading to more and more precious kernels of corn!

So it is with giving. Paul encouraged the Corinthian believers to sow seeds of generosity by investing their material wealth in eternal souls. Those seeds are still producing a harvest of changed lives which, in turn impact others. And they impact others, and so on, and so on.

Our giving generates an exponential impact. Just as one kernel of corn can multiply itself many times over, so our seeds of generosity can multiply in ways that stagger our imaginations. Isn't it great that God gives us the opportunity to give, and then blesses us so abundantly? Grasping this concept should motivate us to give abundantly, to give cheerfully, and to freely scatter our gifts for the honor and glory of God.

