

FRIDAY AUGUST 6

A BOUNTIFUL EYE

Proverbs 22:9

We usually think of the word bounty or bountiful more at Thanksgiving time for it is at that time of the year we are to focus on and be grateful for God's bounty to us. Even then, we have come to look more at what we have of God's bounty in the natural rather than the spiritual first. It has even reached the point where the natural has so overtaken the spiritual that we have neglected being grateful for even those things.

Because God is a generous God He freely gives to us our needs (not necessarily our wants) both spiritually and naturally, and that generosity poured out to us should flow out from us as well.

God's Word is full of words regarding generosity and giving in numerous ways (which again is evidence of God's nature). Proverbs 22:9 speaks of a generous person as having a "good eye." One that has a "bountiful eye" is one that has a bountiful heart to what he sees. It is that individual who will be blessed by the Lord.

When we are stingy in our giving (no matter what aspect of giving this covers), we end up being the ones that are hurt by our own stinginess and effectiveness in God's kingdom. Our desire to be effective servants must begin with a "bountiful eye" because that again is God's nature.

2 Corinthians 9:6 speaks of the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. The one who sows generously will reap generously. God loves a cheerful giver because He too is a cheerful giver. Too often we relate our sowing and reaping to just the natural...reaping of things to ourselves and that is wrong. That too is an attitude of selfishness...not God's heart. Our generosity and "bountiful eye" needs to be first and foremost for God's kingdom work. As that becomes our motivation and heart, it is then God blesses because we can be trusted with what He gives so it will be used and dispersed according to His purposes. His promise in verse 10 of 2 Corinthians 9 is that God (the Provider) Who provides what we need to sow (the seed) and bread (the harvest) will once again multiply our seed to sow in order for our harvest to continually increase. God is all about multiplication and we may participate in that as we develop a "bountiful eye." "Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure - pressed down, shaken together and running over - will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38 HCSB)