

# 30 Days of Prayer

## Day 24

### 2 Corinthians 9.6-8

6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

God of abundant blessings,

I think I need to provide my family with the best of everything, but you know that what my family needs is my attention and love. I think I need to take a vacation, but you know that what I need is to rest in you. I think I need to save money for a rainy day, but you know that there are people in the world who don't even have shelter from that rain.

Change my soul, Lord, so that I can turn my focus away from myself and begin to see the needs of others. Stir my heart, Lord, so that I can give cheerfully and with a grateful heart for all the things I have that I need and for all the things I have that I simply want. Help me to be ridiculously generous, eccentrically compassionate, and astoundingly benevolent! Then give me eyes to see how insanely generous you are with the blessings you pour out on me! In the name of Christ,

Amen.

Paul told those living in Corinth that God desires for us to give abundantly, not because we have to, but because we want to. Paul also proclaimed God's promise that we would never lack for anything we need when we give abundantly and cheerfully.

What's hard for us to imagine is that what we want and what we need are not the same thing. It's hard to give up those things that are desires so that we can give to others who don't even have basic needs. But that is what God has called us to do. And it is what brings us joy when we begin to see that we are sacrificing what we *want* to fill someone else's *need*.