



Message: ***Building the Road*** | June 28, 2026 | Speaker: **Pastor Eddie Eddy**

2 Corinthians 9:6–15 (NIV)

*6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*

*7 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.*

*8 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.*

*9 As it is written:*

*“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;  
their righteousness endures forever.”*

*10 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.*

*11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

*12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.*

*13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.*

*14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.*

*15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*

L: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

“Building the Road”

There are certain subjects in church that can make people uncomfortable almost immediately, and to be completely honest...tithing is probably one of the biggest ones. The moment a pastor starts talking about money, some people immediately tense up.

The first thought for some is, “Here we go... the church wants something from me.” Others feel guilty because they know they haven’t been giving the way they should. Others honestly wonder if giving still matters in a world where everything costs more and finances already feel stretched thin.

But what the Apostle Paul is talking about in 2 Corinthians 9 is not fundraising. It’s discipleship. It’s truly about the condition of one’s heart. Paul writes, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously... God loves a cheerful giver.”

This passage is not some formula where if you give money to God, God automatically gives money back to you. Paul is talking about trust. He is talking about transformed lives. He is talking about what happens when somebody truly understands the grace...the undeserved favor of God...they have received through Jesus Christ.

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The deeper truth is this: tithing projects one of the clearest signs of a transformed heart. Not because salvation can be purchased...just to clarify...it cannot be purchased because we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Tithing is not what saves us...it is what flows from a heart that has already been transformed by Jesus Christ.

But when someone truly begins to grasp the price that was paid for eternal life, something changes inside them. When you realize that the Son of God willingly carried your sin to the cross...when you understand that Jesus stepped into your condemnation so you could receive forgiveness...when you realize the difference between eternal death and eternal life is bridged by the blood of Christ...generosity stops feeling like obligation and starts becoming worship.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Notice He didn't say your treasure follows your heart. He says your heart follows your treasure. What we invest in shapes what we love, and that is why money becomes such a spiritual issue. Our spending often reveals what we truly trust.

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Now let me say something important here. When we talk about giving to the church, we are not talking about paying dues to belong to an exclusive club. This is not some religious subscription service where people pay a fee to keep membership active. That's not what the church is.

Part of what it means to be a member of Back Roads Church...and honestly even part of what it means to simply be a regular attendee...is recognizing that we are participating in a shared Kingdom mission together. We come here week after week to receive from God.

We come to hear His Word preached. We come looking for encouragement when life beats us down. We come carrying grief, anxiety, fear, addiction, loneliness, and questions. We come asking people to pray for us.

We bring our children and grandchildren so they can learn about Jesus. We celebrate baptisms, weddings, recoveries, graduations, and answered prayers...all together. We gather around one another during funerals, illnesses, and hospital visits. We come seeking to grow deeper in our faith and stronger in our service to the Kingdom.

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We do all of this, and we do it well...but ministry costs something. Lights don't stay on for free. Curriculum doesn't magically appear. Mission trips cost money. Outreach ministries cost money. Children's ministries cost money. Keeping buildings open for worship, Bible studies, growth groups, grief groups, youth ministries, and community meals all require faithful support.

Here is the truth...none of this happens accidentally. It happens because faithful people give.

PAUSE

As receivers of God's grace, the natural response of the Christian heart should honestly be, "Lord, everything I have is already a gift from You anyway."

Because if we truly understood the depth of God's mercy toward us, we would realize our whole lives belong to Him. Yet here is the amazing thing: God does not ask us to give Him everything we have financially. Instead, throughout Scripture, the tithe became a starting point for God's people...not a ceiling. It was never meant to become cold religious math. It was meant to teach trust.

The question was never simply, "Can God survive without my money?" The real question has always been, "Do I trust Him enough to place Him first?"

When believers tithe, what they are really saying is, "Lord, I trust You to provide for me. I trust that Your guidance, care, and provision over my life is greater than anything I could accomplish by holding tightly to everything myself."

Now don't hear what I'm not saying. Following Jesus does not guarantee wealth, luxury, or an easy life. Faithful Christians still struggle. Faithful Christians still face hardship. Tithing is not a financial investment strategy. It is an act of worship, trust, and surrender that says, "Lord, even when life feels uncertain, I still believe You are enough."

The tithe is meant to teach us that our security is not ultimately found in money, or possessions, or the size of a bank account. Our security is found in God.

That is why Malachi 3:10 is so powerful: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... Test me in this... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven." Think about that for a moment. Throughout Scripture we are warned not to test God, yet here God Himself says, "Test Me in this."

Why? Because tithing ultimately becomes an issue of trust. Do we trust God enough to obey Him even when finances feel tight? Do we trust Him enough to believe He will provide? Faith eventually has to move beyond only words...and into action.

PAUSE

Paul uses farming language because the people of that era understood it well. A farmer who keeps every seed locked away in the barn out of fear...will never experience a harvest. At some point faith requires open hands. A seed has to leave your possession before growth can happen. And honestly, that is a tough one for us...because everything in our culture teaches the complete opposite.

The world says accumulate more, protect more, hoard more, save more, and define security by what sits in the bank account. But the Kingdom of God has always operated differently. We serve a God who gave freely. "For God so loved the world that He gave..." John 3:16.

God did not hoard His grace. God did not ration mercy. God gave His Son for our sake. When that truth truly settles into the heart of a believer, generosity slowly becomes less frightening because we begin realizing our security was never in money to begin with. Our security has always been in Christ.

I remember during the early days of the pandemic when store shelves emptied overnight. People were hoarding toilet paper, canned goods, and cleaning supplies...anything they could get their hands on. Fear made people cling tightly to everything they had.

But at the very same time, the church was often at its best. Churches delivered meals. People bought groceries for elderly neighbors. Families shared supplies with one another. Why? Because fear closes hands, but faith opens them.

That's the tension Paul is talking about. Tithing asks the question: do we trust God enough to loosen our grip? And honestly, this is one of the clearest ways faith moves from theory to reality. It's easy to say, "I trust God." It becomes harder when obedience affects the checking account.

Now I also want to say this carefully and honestly: tithing is often a learning process. A growing process. For many people it does not happen overnight. I'll be honest with you...it took me time to get there myself. Because we live in a world constantly teaching us to accumulate more, protect more, and take care of ourselves first. Everything around us says, "If you don't protect your own interests, nobody else will."

But Christianity teaches something radically different. Christianity teaches surrender. It teaches trust. It teaches eternal perspective. God does not demand perfection on day one. He calls us to faithfulness. For some people...the first step may simply be starting somewhere and learning to trust Him more deeply over time.

Friends...because the deeper truth is this: Back Roads Church is not about building net worth. We are about building the connecting road from death to life, from lost to found, from hopelessness to redemption, from condemned to saved.

Every ministry of this church ultimately exists to help people encounter Jesus Christ. Whether it's a child learning Bible stories for the first time at Wednesday Night Sunday School, or a struggling family finding support, or someone battling addiction discovering hope, or a grieving person hearing that they are not alone...this church exists to point people toward the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

And somebody once said something that has always stuck with me: "Every dollar needed to bring people to Christ is already sitting in the church...it's just still in people's pockets." There's truth in that because often the limitation is not God's provision...the limitation is our willingness to trust Him with what He has already placed in our hands.

The bottom line is...we all invest in something. Some invest only in temporary things that rust, fade, break down, and eventually disappear. But every dollar invested into the Kingdom of God becomes part of something eternal. Souls are eternal. The Gospel is eternal. The mission of the church is eternal.

At the end of the day, this really comes down to one question: will fear close our hands, or will faith open them? Because somewhere along the way every believer has to decide whether Jesus is only Savior...or whether He is truly Lord over every part of life, including the things we hold most tightly.

One day when we stand before Christ, I do not believe any faithful believer will regret that they invested into helping people find eternal life. Because at the end of the day, tithing is not ultimately about money. It is about surrender. It is about trust. It is about worship. It is about declaring that Jesus Christ is Lord over every part of our life...including our finances.

Maybe today is not simply about giving more. Maybe today is about trusting more. Maybe today is about opening our hands so God can use us to help build the road that leads someone else from death to life through Jesus Christ.

To God be the Glory, Amen.

### **Invitation to the Offering:**

Church, today's offering is not simply about paying bills or maintaining a building. This moment is an act of worship. It is an opportunity to declare with our actions that we trust God more than we trust our fears.

Throughout Scripture, God calls His people not merely to give what is comfortable or convenient, but to trust Him enough to place Him first. In Malachi, God says, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... Test me in this." Those are powerful words because they remind us that giving has always been about trust before it was ever about money.

This is not about earning God's love or buying God's blessing. Salvation has already been purchased for us through Jesus Christ alone. But generosity becomes one of the clearest ways we demonstrate that our hearts are being transformed by the Gospel.

At some point faith has to move beyond words and into action.

So today, as we give, let us not give reluctantly or out of guilt. Let us give prayerfully, faithfully, and worshipfully. Let us trust that God is able to do far more through surrendered hearts than we could ever accomplish by holding tightly to everything ourselves.

Ushers, Please receive the offering.

### **Closing Prayer with Dedication**

Heavenly Father, we thank You for every gift that has been given today and for every heart that has responded in faith. Lord, these offerings ultimately belong to You because everything we have is already a gift from Your hand.

Today we dedicate these gifts back to Your Kingdom purposes.

Use them to proclaim the Gospel. Use them to strengthen families.

Use them to reach children and youth. Use them to comfort the hurting, encourage the weary, feed the hungry, and remind lost people that there is hope in Jesus Christ.

And Lord, continue Your work within us as well. Teach us to trust You more deeply. Teach us to surrender more fully.

May Back Roads Church never become focused merely on buildings, budgets, or programs, but always remain focused on connecting the road from death to life, from hopelessness to redemption, and from lost to found through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We give You all glory, honor, and praise.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen.