

Proverbs 22:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

Analysis

The person with a 'bountiful eye' (generous spirit) sees abundance where others see scarcity, giving freely to the poor. Such generosity receives divine blessing. This connects economic behavior to spiritual condition: the generous person has been transformed by God's grace and reflects His character. Giving to the poor is lending to the Lord (Proverbs 19:17); God repays with both temporal and eternal rewards. Generosity demonstrates faith that God provides abundantly and will not leave the giver destitute. By contrast, the stingy person who hoards reveals distrust of God's provision. Believers should cultivate generous hearts that delight in meeting others' needs.

Historical Context

Israelite law mandated provision for the poor through gleaning, debt forgiveness, and prohibitions against exploitation. Generosity was covenant obligation, not optional charity.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Do you have a 'bountiful eye' that sees opportunities to help, or a stingy spirit that hoards?
2. How can you grow in generous giving that reflects God's abundant provision?

Interlinear Text

בָּטָבֵן	וְאֵת	עַל	הַ	יְבָרֵךְ	כִּי	נָתַן	וְ
He that hath a bountiful	eye		H1931	shall be blessed	H3588	for he giveth	
H2896	H5869			H1288		H5414	
לְדָלֶל: מִלְחָמָה							
of his bread	to the poor						
H3899	H1800						

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 19:17 (Parallel theme): He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Hebrews 6:10 (Parallel theme): For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Acts 20:35 (Blessing): I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

1 Peter 4:9 (Parallel theme): Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

Hebrews 13:16 (Parallel theme): But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Isaiah 32:8 (Parallel theme): But the liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand.

Proverbs 21:13 (Parallel theme): Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

Luke 14:13 (Parallel theme): But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:

Psalms 112:9 (Parallel theme): He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

Matthew 20:15 (Parallel theme): Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?