Small Group Interaction Questions:

STEWARDSHIP SERIES
"Inside Out" 5/17/09
2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Dear Friends,
The past two weeks I have been inviting you to a journey toward financial freedom. That's not a catch phrase that hides a motive of manipulation or a set-up for a big request for money. Financial freedom is the foundation for all consistent generosity, and it is a wonderful gift of peace. The economic conditions of our nation and world have surfaced unsustainable spending and leveraging at the highest levels of finance. The trickle-down effect has been that many of our own houses have been shown to be built on financial sand as well. Financial freedom is possible for you. It may take some time. However, the joy found in it is the freedom to allow your hands to respond generously to the needs God places on your heart. In turn, the watching and needy world recognizes that Jesus Christ really does make a practical difference in lives today.

Pastor Roger

① **Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15**. The context is one where Paul is writing to prepare the Corinthians for his next visit. He is taking up a collection for famine relief for the church in Jerusalem. He wants the Corinthians to be prepared when he comes. Throughout this context he is pointing them, not toward squeezing out a minimal donation, but toward thinking and acting generously.

Have you ever been a recipient of generosity? When? What lasting impact did it have on you?

Whom do you know who is a truly, consistently generous person?

② Why do you think it is important for God to partner with a "cheerful giver?" (v. 7)

How would you rate yourself on a scale of cheerfulness in giving?

1. . . . . 2. . . . . 3. . . . . 4. . . . . 5. . . . . 6. . . . . 7. . . . . 8. . . . . 9. 10
Fearful Willing Cheerful

③ Can you share a practice, a discipline, or a method that has helped you be more consistent in your stewardship?

④ Have you seen or felt some of the joys of the "harvest" mentioned in v. 12-15.

⑤ Do you believe the promise of v. 8-11? Is there a circumstance or a financial strain that makes generosity a real act of faith right now?

Pray for a generous heart. Pray for the challenging economic circumstances faced by members of the group.