



## PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints – 5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. 6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. 7 But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. 8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. 10 And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. 11 So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. 12 For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

13 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness 14 your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. 15 As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

## SUMMARY

Generosity is a mark of a Christ-centered church. Over the next three weeks, we will explore the central NT teaching (2 Cor 8-9), on the expression of generosity in and through the local church. Our generosity is directly tied to our gratitude for the gospel work of Jesus.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In 2 Corinthians 8:6, Paul refers to giving as an act of grace. Explain how you believe this to be true.
2. In your opinion, why does Paul equate giving with spiritual gifts in the church?
3. Compare and contrast the attitudes of giving between the Macedonian and Corinthian churches. In your opinion, what is the cause of the difference in attitude?
4. How would someone know if they are excelling in the grace of giving?
5. Read verses 13-15. What truth do you see Paul explaining to the Corinthians? Describe how you have seen this work out in your life, or in the life of someone you know.
6. Paul was encouraging the church in Corinth to finish what they had started in relation to their collection for the church in Jerusalem. Is there anything you have committed to do which you have not yet completed?
7. Who are examples of Godly generosity in your life?
8. Consider your own giving - are you an example of Godly generosity in the life of someone else?

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