

# 2 Corinthians



Power in Weakness

**The Grace of Giving –**

**2 Corinthians 8**



# **6 Characteristics of the Macedonian giving**

1 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 2 Cor 8:1-3

4they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. 5And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. 6So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. 2 Corinthians 8:4-6

7 But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

*2 Corinthians 8:7*

**1. Their giving was motivated  
by the grace of God –**

**Vs. 1, 4, 6, 7, 9,19,**



## 2. Their giving was not limited by circumstances

2 *In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.*

*2 Corinthians 8:2*

***For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.***

***2 Corinthians 8:12***

**3 Their giving was joyful**

*...their overflowing joy – vs. 2*

## 4. The giving was generous

*their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.*

*2 Corinthians 8:2*

3For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. 2 Corinthians 8:3-4

**Nobody plants seed expecting to get  
the same amount of seed back**

9*Honor the LORD with your wealth,  
with the first fruits of all your crops;*  
10*then your barns will be filled to  
overflowing, and your vats will brim over  
with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10 NIV*

24 Give freely and become more wealthy;  
be stingy and lose everything. 25 The  
generous will prosper; those who refresh  
others will themselves be refreshed.

*Proverbs 11:24-25 NLT*



**8**“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.  
“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In  
tithes and offerings. **9**You are under a curse—  
your whole nation—because you are robbing  
me. **10**Bring the whole tithe into the  
storehouse, that there may be food in my  
house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty,  
“and see if I will not throw open the floodgates  
of heaven and pour out so much blessing that  
there will not be room enough to store  
it. Malachi 3:8-10

**“The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord.”—J. L. Kraft (head of Kraft Cheese Corporation)**

## 5. Their giving was an act of worship – vs. 5

*And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. 2 Corinthians 8:5*

*He is no fool who gives what he cannot  
keep, to gain what he cannot lose.  
Missionary Jim Elliott*

**6. Their giving was proof of  
their love – vs. 7-8**

***7But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you —see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 8I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. 2 Corinthians 8:7-8***

*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 through his poverty might become rich.*

*2 Corinthians 8:9*

## **Application questions:**

**In which of these characteristics of giving do I need to take the next step?**

**What steps will I take to obey the Lord in giving?**



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