



## Grace-Filled Giving

By Jeff Bedwell on May 2, 2022

### TODAY'S READING: 2 Corinthians 8

In this chapter, Paul is urging the believers in Corinth to give generously to a special “relief offering” for the poor Christians in Judea. He appeals to them to give from several perspectives.

First, Paul pointed to the example of the believers in Macedonia (vv. 1-7). They excelled in the grace of giving despite their own affliction and poverty. They gave liberally, joyously, enthusiastically and sacrificially. What a model of grace-filled giving!

Secondly, Paul pointed them to the example of Jesus Himself (vv. 8-10). *“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”* (2 Corinthians 8:9, ESV). We are never more like our Savior than when we willingly disadvantage ourselves for the blessing and benefit of another.

Paul also appeals to his own directives to the Corinthians (vv. 11-15). *“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. 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”* (2 Corinthians 8:10–11, ESV).

Our financial generosity is connected to our hearts. There is no way to mature spiritually without committing our lives, including our finances, to the Lord. It has been said that “Jesus can have our money and not have our hearts, but Jesus cannot have our hearts without our money.”

Paul put it this way in explaining the radical generosity of the Macedonian believers: *“For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us”* (2 Corinthians 8:3–5, ESV).

**PRAYER:** Father, thank You for the abundance of Your grace toward me. Help me give myself first to the Lord and to engage in grace-filled, radical generosity out of the overflow of my walk with You.

### TOMORROW'S READING: 2 Corinthians 9

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