



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Overflow in the Grace of Giving January 13-15, 2024

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

¹And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 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. 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. 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.

Verses 1-3 What are some of the superlatives Paul uses to describe the remarkable generosity of the Macedonian Christians?

Community fund-raisers may point to the generosity of large givers to “motivate” others to give more. Is Paul doing the same when he points the Corinthians to the example of their brothers and sisters in Macedonia?

Verse 4 What is amazing about the attitude of the Christians in Macedonia?

Verse 5 The Christians in Macedonia first gave themselves to the Lord, and only then did they respond to Paul's appeal. Why is that so important? (Read Romans 12:1.)

Verse 6 Notice how Paul calls the offering being gathered by the Corinthians an “act of grace.” How do you think Titus would “bring to completion” this act of grace?

Verse 7 Why is Paul certain that the Corinthians will now complete the gathering of this offering?

Verse 8 Agree or disagree: It is proper to motivate Christians to give by appealing to the example of what others are doing.

Verse 9 Paul points to the generosity of Jesus to remind us of the source of our generosity.

- What does it mean that Jesus was rich?
- What does it mean that he became poor?
- What are the riches we receive through his poverty?

“All the church is concerned about is money.” Why is this statement often heard, especially from weak Christians and unbelievers?