

Sermon Notes | 2 Corinthians 8

Big Idea: True generosity comes from the grace of God.

1 Corinthians 8:1 "We want you to know, brothers, about the **grace of God** that has been **given** among the churches of **Macedonia**,..."

Grace of God- God's undeserved love to save, sustain and transform me.

Signs of Grace-motivated generosity

1. You have the Desire to be Generous Regardless of Circumstances (v.2-4).

²for in a **severe test of affliction**, their **abundance of joy** and their **extreme poverty** have overflowed in a **wealth of generosity** on their part.³For 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—

Great affliction + deep poverty + **GRACE** = huge generosity + abundant joy.

2. Willing to Follow Leadership (v.5-8).

⁵and 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.

3. You Remember Christ's Generosity (v.9).

⁹For 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.

4. You Seek to be an Integral Part of the Church (v.10-15)

¹⁰And 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."

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Discussion Questions | 2 Corinthians 8

- What did God speak to you this weekend?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1

- Who do you know that has received the grace of generosity?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:2-4

- What are some obstacles in your life that prevent you from being generous?
- How is God challenging you through this passage?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:5-8

- How has leadership in your life affected your generosity?
- What is one step you could take to follow that leadership in this area?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9

- What has Christ given you?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:10-15

- If 1 means total bystander and 10 means sold-out participant, where would you place yourself in your involvement in the church community?
- How has this passage or sermon impacted your heart and attitude toward generosity?

