

**Series "Strength In Weakness"**  
**"Graced In Giving"**  
**2 Corinthians 8:1-9**  
**Study-12**

The only quote of Jesus outside of the gospels is in **Acts**, and speaks of giving!  
**Acts 20:35**

**2 Corinthians 8-9** are two chapters that deal with the subject of giving.

We, as the children of God, have been given three things that we can use to invest for eternity.

1. Our Time
2. Our Talents, gifts, and abilities
3. Resources

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "A Christian, By Nature, Is A Giver; In Which The Goal Of The Believer Is That Which Is Eternal, Not Temporal."

**Eight Principles In Giving:**

**1. Verse 1 Giving Displays God's Grace:**

**2 Corinthians 8:1 Now**, This marks a change of direction in Paul's letter. Paul has just finished speaking about "**Genuine Repentance.**" Paul started speaking about it by first denying that he had done any wrongdoings.

**2 Corinthians 7:2 we wronged no one,**  
*"to be a criminal, to have violated the laws in some way."*  
The idea of doing someone wrong.

**we corrupted no one,**  
*"to lead away from holiness, to destroy."*  
The idea of changing the purpose or the design.

**we took advantage of no one.**  
*"to be over, or power over; to be superior, to overreach."*

**2 Corinthians 7:14-16**

Just as we studied the difference between "**Godly Sorrow & Worldly Sorrow,**" there is a difference in "**Giving God's Way & Giving Man's Way!**"

**brethren**, Paul was writing to Christians that were in sin.

**grace of God** When we speak of the grace of God, we are speaking of God's power to forgive and power to sustain!

**Grace** – The word boiled down means *"give, to give abundantly, to give with no expectation of anything in return"* **Luke 6:33**

This sustaining power here is in giving. It is called **"Grace Giving!"**. Giving in its truest sense is from God. It is not Law, but grace! It is not this heavy guilt, hard thing.

**2 Corinthians 8:6-9, 2 Corinthians 8:19**

**Our giving is motivated by God's grace.**

**which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,**

This area, **Macedonia**, was called Asia Minor, which is present-day Turkey. **Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea.**

## **2. Verse 2 Giving In Spite Of Circumstances:**

**2 Corinthians 8:2 that in a great ordeal of affliction**

*"Being placed under great pressure, to determine worth."*

**their abundance of joy**

They were being tested and refined, and there was joy, not just any ordinary joy, but an abundance of joy.

**and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.**

Notice that they were not only wanting but really in want.

Even though they were hurting, they were overflowing in generosity.

**deep poverty** – *"Destitute."*

**They were giving in spite of circumstances!**

**liberality** – *"to give with the single-minded purpose to glorify God, uncalculating and free from ulterior motives"* **Luke 21:1-4**

## **3. Verses 3-4 Giving Should Be Willing And Enthusiastic:**

**2 Corinthians 8:3**

**Gave Proportionately: For I testify that according to their ability, (1 Corinthians 16:1-4)**

**Gave Sacrificially: and beyond their ability**

This speaks about giving sacrificially to God.

David said in **2 Samuel 24:24**

**Gave Willingly: they gave of their own accord,**  
*"According to their own choosing."*

*There was no pressuring the people to give!*

#### **2 Corinthians 8:4**

**Begging To Give:** They were saying, "Paul, please let us help and support the work of God!" **begging us with much urging for the favor of participation**

**in the support of the saints,** we want to help the believers.  
**Exodus 36:5-7**

#### **4. Verse 5 Giving Includes The Giver:**

**2 Corinthians 8:5 and this, not as we had expected,**  
Paul was blown away by their giving.

**but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.** God does not want our giving if we are not worshiping Him. If we are giving to try and get on God's side, we are mistaken.

#### **1 Samuel 15:21-23**

**Giving is an act of worship!**

**Acts 5 Ananias, with his wife, Sapphira**

#### **5. Verse 6 Giving Means Fulfilling Our Vows:**

**2 Corinthians 8:6 we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.** There are so many that start so well but don't finish.

**People can get so emotional about a cause and make commitments to a cause**

#### **6. Verse 7 Giving Is A Christian Grace:**

**2 Corinthians 8:7 But just as you abound in everything,**  
These believers had blessed lives. Spiritual endowments.

**in faith** *"trusting God for great things."*

**and utterance** *"speaking forth the Word, forth-telling."*

**and knowledge**

*"understanding of the revealed truth, doctrine and practice"*

**and in all earnestness** *"zeal to do God's will."*

**and in the love we inspired in you,** *"loving in spite of difficulty."*

**see that you abound in this gracious work also.** The Corinthians were abounding in knowledge, diligence, and love, but they would also need to be givers. **Romans 12:8** **he who gives, with liberality**

### **7. Verse 8 Giving Demonstrates Love:**

**2 Corinthians 8:8** **I am not speaking this as a command,**  
These things were not a command by Paul; it was testimony and instruction.

**"We can give without Loving, but we cannot Love without giving!"**

**but as proving through the earnestness of others** the example of the Macedonians.

**the sincerity of your love also.**

When we love, we have to give! **John 3:16; 1 John 3:17-19**

### **8. Verse 9 Giving Reveals Sonship:**

**2 Corinthians 8:9** **For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,**  
Referring to the grace that forgives.

**yet for your sake He became poor, Jesus was the giver of givers.**

He gave His all! **Romans 8:32**

**so that you through His poverty**

He took the cross. He was beaten and took the punishment of sin for us.

**might become rich.**

We might receive all of God's riches.

### **Application:**

1. Giving Displays God's Grace
2. Giving Is In Spite Of Circumstances
3. Giving Should Be Willing And Enthusiastic
4. Giving Includes The Giver
5. Giving Means Fulfilling Our Vows:
6. Giving Is A Christian Grace:
7. Giving Demonstrates Love:
8. Giving Reveals Sonship: