

Series "Strength In Weakness"
"Encouragement In Giving"
2 Corinthians 8:10-24
Study-13

Giving Is Based On The Grace Of God! 2 Corinthians 8:1

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

Paul in **2 Corinthians 8:1-9** has given us some examples of giving:

1. The Macedonians in how God's grace came through them, and they gave out of poverty.
2. The example of Jesus Christ: **2 Corinthians 8:9**

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Thought Of Our Passage: "Commitment To Giving Should Result In Giving That Honors God Through A Ministry With Integrity."

1. Verses 10-12 Giving Is A Commitment To Be Honored
2. Verses 13-15 Giving Brings Balance To Stewardship
3. Verses 16-24 Giving Must Include Integrity

1. Verses 10-12 Giving Is A Commitment To Be Honored:

2 Corinthians 8:10 I give my opinion in this matter,

Context – Paul gave **eight Principles In Giving:**

Paul left off with "**Giving Reveals Sonship**" **2 Corinthians 8:9**

I give my opinion in this matter,

Paul never commanded others to give! He is appealing to them.

Paul recognized that giving must come from the heart.

for this is to your advantage,

Notice Paul's motivation for giving to the Lord is based upon the fact that "*it is for our good!*"

That when we give to God, it does two things:

1. In Our Giving To God, We Are Honoring Our Commitment
2. When We Give, We Become Extensions, Or Channels, Of God

Stewardship – of God's resources is crucial. We are the manager of another's affairs.

Three things that we can use to invest for eternity:

- 1. Our Time:** For ourselves or enriching others. Giving time to God.
- 2. Our Talents, gifts, and abilities:**
- 3. Resources:**

who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do this, but also to desire to do it. The Corinthians made a commitment a year earlier. They started to give towards this need in Judea and had the desire to do it.

1 Corinthians 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints,

2 Corinthians 8:11 But now finish doing it also;

Honor your commitment in your giving!

so that just as there was the readiness to desire it,

People can get so excited about a project or a cause.

Our Giving Should Be Manifested In Willingness:

Pastors need to have a willing mind. **1 Peter 5:2**

Our Willingness To Give Should Result In Our Giving:

so there may be also the completion of it by your ability.

We make the commitment, but now by our ability, we need to complete it!

Why did the Corinthians make a promise and then not keep it?

Why is it that we make promises that we don't keep? We don't know!

1 Corinthians 1:11-12

2 Corinthians 8:12 God Sees Our Heart: For if the readiness is present, It starts with the heart!

it is acceptable according to what a man has,

It is good to be excited and ready with the resources to give!

not according to what he does not have.

God does not expect us to give what we don't have!

God sees not the portion but the proportion.

2. Verses 13-15 Giving Brings Balance To Stewardship:

2 Corinthians 8:13 For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, Giving is not to be by the wealthy, or those who have much, and not by others.

Those that have an abundance of resources have been given a responsibility! God has blessed us in order to bless others!

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

but by way of equality— God desires that we all give because we all are stewards of God! We all are managers of God's resources, and we need to use His resources properly!

2 Corinthians 8:14 at this present time your abundance being a supply for their need, notice that God has blessed the Corinthians so that the believers in Judea can have their needs met!

so that their abundance also may become a supply for your need, Paul is saying that those that have been a resource may find themselves on the receiving end too.

that there may be equality;

Reciprocal relationships; giving and receiving.
God must teach us these lessons.

2 Corinthians 8:15 as it is written,

Paul refers to **Exodus 16** when the nation of Israel was traveling in the wilderness. God provided Manna, and they were to gather a portion (**Omer**) of about **3.64 liters**. God would meet their needs with that amount!

"HE WHO gathered MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO gathered LITTLE HAD NO LACK." This was **Manna, which** meant *"What is it?"*

Exodus 16:16-21; Matthew 6:19-21

3. Verses 16-24 Giving Must Include Integrity:

2 Corinthians 8:16 But thanks be to God,

Paul was thanking God for working in their hearts.

Paul Gives 5 Guidelines For Integrity In Giving:

1. Verses 16-17 Handling of God's Resources should be by those who love God's People: who puts the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus.

2 Corinthians 8:17 he has gone to you of his own accord.

2 Corinthians 8:18 Who was this brother? Luke, John, Mark?

**2. Verse 18 Our Giving Is With A Heart For The Gospel:
whose fame in the things of the gospel**

has spread through all the churches;

The message was consistent; it was the same everywhere he went.

2 Corinthians 8:19

His Appointment: and not only this, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work,

- 3. Verse 19 A Desire To Honor God: which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and to show our readiness,**
If we are not accountable, how can we call it the glory of God?

2 Corinthians 8:20-21

Notice Paul's concern for the reputation and integrity of the church.

- 4. Verses 20-22 A Reputation For Honesty: sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.**

2 Corinthians 8:22 our brother – Silas, Apollos?

**Test or prove that one is sound:
whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things,**

2 Corinthians 8:23

- 5. Verses 23-24 Our Giving Involves Partnership In Unity:
he is my partner and fellow worker among you**

**2 Corinthians 8:24 Therefore openly before the churches,
show them the proof of your love**

This proof would be the giving of this gift.

and of our reason for boasting about you.

Prove by your faithfulness what we have been saying.

Application:

- 1. Giving Is A Commitment To Be Honored: Willing, Then Completed.**
- 2. Giving Brings Balance To Our Stewardship: Giving Is By Faith, We Give And The Time Will Come When We Will Be On The Receiving End.**
- 3. Giving Should Be Done With Integrity: Loving God, The Gospel, And His People.**