

The Power of Giving **Purposeful Generosity Part 1**

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WELCOME

PRAYER

SHARE

Read: 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. ⁸I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. 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 through his poverty might become rich.

Discussion

Introduction:

- Why do you think giving to people and non-profits is celebrated in our culture, but giving to the Church is met with skepticism?

I. The Macedonian Example (v.1-5)

- Reflect on the Macedonian church's eagerness to give beyond their ability. What motivates such a heart?

II. The Call to Excel (v.6-7)

- How can we be encouraged to excel in our giving just as the Macedonians did?

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III. Genuine Love and the Act of Giving (v.8-9)

- How does the act of giving correlate with genuine love?
- What are some practical ways we can cultivate a heart that is eager to give, even in difficult circumstances

PRAYER REQUESTS / PRAISE REPORTS

CARE: Follow-up during the week