



The Practice of Joy

LIBERTI

A close-up photograph of a hand reaching upwards, palm facing forward. The hand is illuminated from below, creating a warm, golden glow. The background is dark with several out-of-focus, circular bokeh lights in shades of yellow and green. The overall mood is one of hope and aspiration.

Week Six
Through Giving



Giving Joyfully



We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that was given to the churches of Macedonia: ² During a severe trial brought about by affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ I can testify that, according to their ability and even beyond their ability, of their own accord, ⁴ they begged us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints, ⁵ and not just as we had hoped. Instead, they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us by God's will.

2 Corinthians 8:1–5 (CSB)



Giving Joyfully

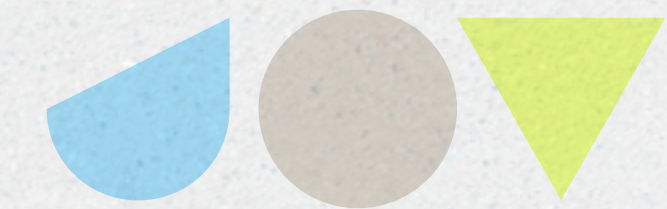


⁶ So we urged Titus that just as he had begun, so he should also complete among you this act of grace. ⁷ Now as you excel in everything — in faith, speech, knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love for us — excel also in this act of grace. ⁸ I am not saying this as a command. Rather, by means of the diligence of others, I am testing the genuineness of your love.

2 Corinthians 8:6–8 (CSB)



Giving Sacrificially



⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: Though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9 (CSB)

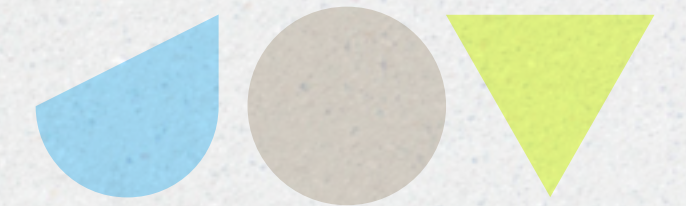


Jesus, the God-Man, had infinite wealth, but if he had held on to it, we would have died in our spiritual poverty. That was the choice— if he stayed rich, we would die poor. If he dies poor, we could become rich.

– Tim Keller



Giving Sacrificially



¹⁰ And in this matter I am giving advice because it is profitable for you, who began last year not only to do something but also to want to do it. ¹¹ Now also finish the task, so that just as there was an eager desire, there may also be a completion, according to what you have. ¹² For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

2 Corinthians 8:10–12 (CSB)



Giving Sacrificially



¹³ It is not that there should be relief for others and hardship for you, but it is a question of equality. ¹⁴ At the present time your surplus is available for their need, so that their abundance may in turn meet your need, in order that there may be equality. ¹⁵ As it is written: The person who had much did not have too much, and the person who had little did not have too little.

2 Corinthians 8:13–15 (CSB)



Giving Sacrificially



No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Matthew 6:24 (ESV)



Giving Sacrificially



For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.

1 Timothy 6:10 (ESV)



Giving Sacrificially



“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ... ³⁰ For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

Luke 12:22–24, 30–31 (ESV)



God has faithfully provided for us in his Son,
so we can trust him to provide for every other
need. Since we can trust his heart, we can
trust his hand.

– Kristen Wetherell



Giving Regularly



⁶ The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each person should do as he has decided in his heart — not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work.



Giving Regularly



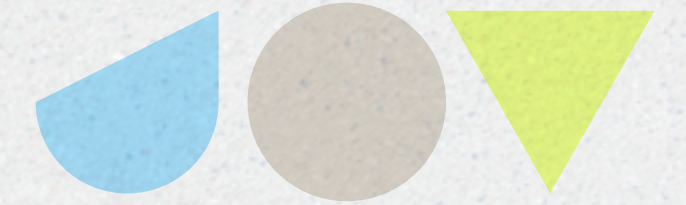
⁹ As it is written:

He distributed freely;
he gave to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.

2 Corinthians 9:6–9 (CSB)



Giving Regularly



The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein

Psalm 24:1 (ESV)

For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. "If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.

Psalm 50:10–12 (ESV)



Giving Regularly



You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth

Deuteronomy 8:18 (ESV)

Now the one who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will also provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

2 Corinthians 9:10 (CSB)



Giving Regularly



Each person should do as he has decided in his heart — not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (CSB)



Giving Purposefully

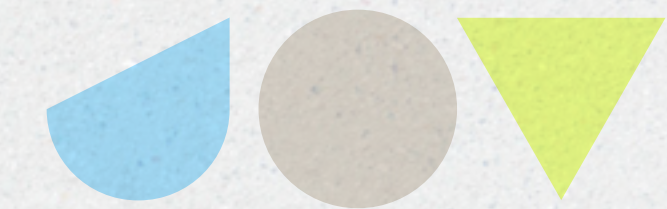


¹¹ You will be enriched in every way for all generosity which produces thanksgiving to God through us. ¹² For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the proof provided by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedient confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone. ¹⁴ And as they pray on your behalf, they will have deep affection for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:11–15 (CSB)



Giving Regularly



“It is more blessed to give than to receive”

Acts 20:35 (ESV)



The world is unhappy, it is distracted and frightened, and what it needs is to see stars shining out of the heavens in the midst of the darkness, attracting the world by rebuking that darkness, and by giving it light, showing how it too can live that quality of life.

– Martyn Lloyd-Jones



As you think about money, stewardship, and the kingdom of God, don't make the mistake of thinking that your money defines your worth either in this world or in the eyes of God. You are of infinite value to God because you are made in his image, he has redeemed you through Christ and filled you with the Holy Spirit, and you are his very own child. That is your worth, your identity, your security.

– Alex Early





ANNIVERSARY

Service

4pm, February 26th

10 Gemvale Road, Reedy Creek