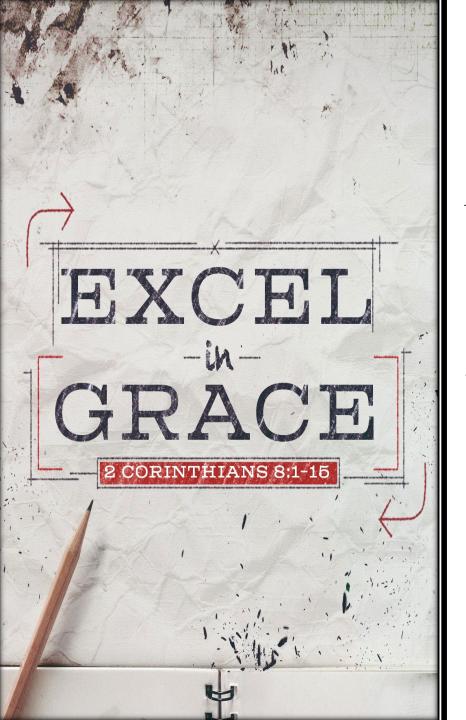


Insight, Instructions, Increase, and Inspiration



Day Twenty

Give Self... Then Give Substance

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (NLT)

1 Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia.

2 They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor.

BUT they are also filled with abundant joy,

which has overflowed in rich generosity.

3 For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will.

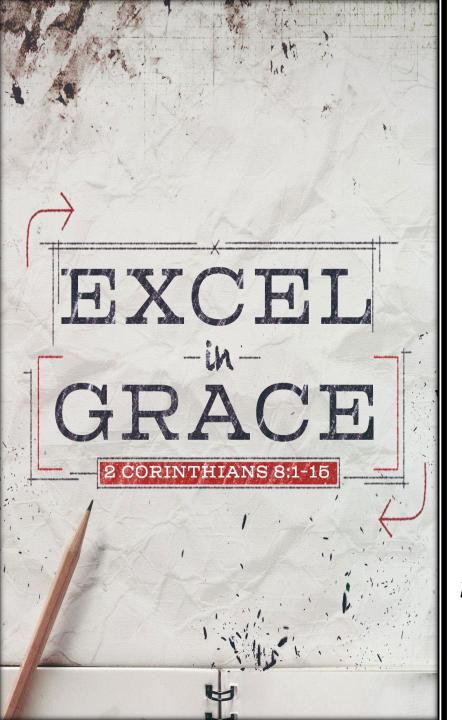
4 They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem.

5 They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was
TO GIVE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD

and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

<u>PERSPECTIVE</u>

You Will Never Give Your Substance To The Lord, If You Don't Give Yourself To The Lord



Day Twenty ~Give Self... Then Give Substance

The Example Of This Church

God Did Something Through Them

God Desires To Bless Others Through You
If God Cannot Get Blessings Through You... He Will Stop Sending Them To You...
Are You River or A Pond

Proverbs 11:25 (*ESV*)

25 Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

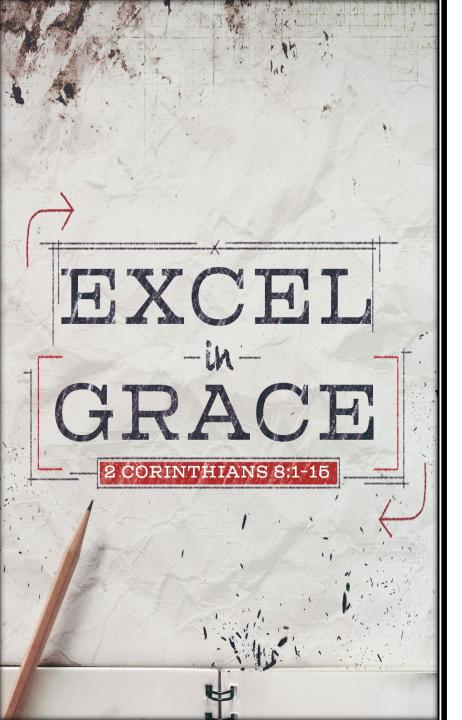
Their Obstacles Didn't Allow Them To Miss Their Opportunity

Experiencing Tests, Trials, and Lack BUT... Filled With Joy and Overflowing In Generosity They Gracious Gave In Spite of Their Circumstances

2 Corinthians 6:10 (NLT)

10 Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything.

Their Eagerness Overshadowed Their Economics
They Maintained Their Desire In The Midst of Difficulties



Day Twenty ~Give Self... Then Give Substance

The Example Of This Church

They Saw The Opportunity As A Privilege

They Did Not Experience The Pressure Of Giving, Because They Saw Sharing In The Blessing As A Privilege

Change Your Perspective To See Giving As A Privilege
1 Chronicles 29:14 (NLT)

14 But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!

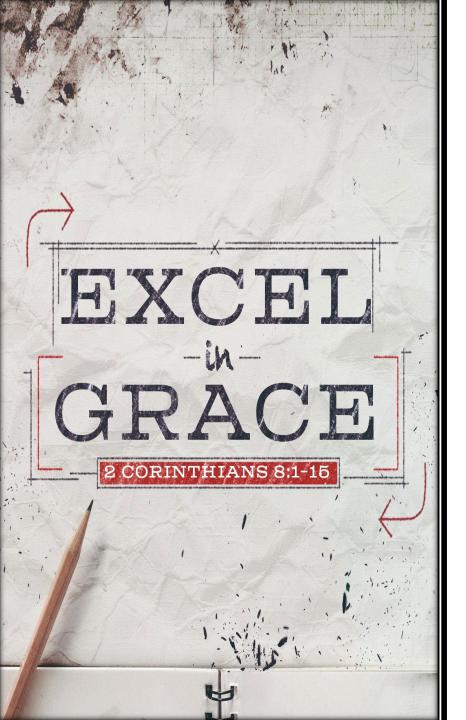
HOW CAN YOU DEVELOP THIS PERSPECTIVE?

Give Yourself To The Lord!!!

2 Corinthians 8:5 (NLT)

5 ... For their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

When God Has The Person... There Is No Problem With The Possessions



Day Twenty ~Give Self... Then Give Substance Biblical Example

Luke 19:1-10 (NLT)

1 Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town.
2 There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich.

5 When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down!

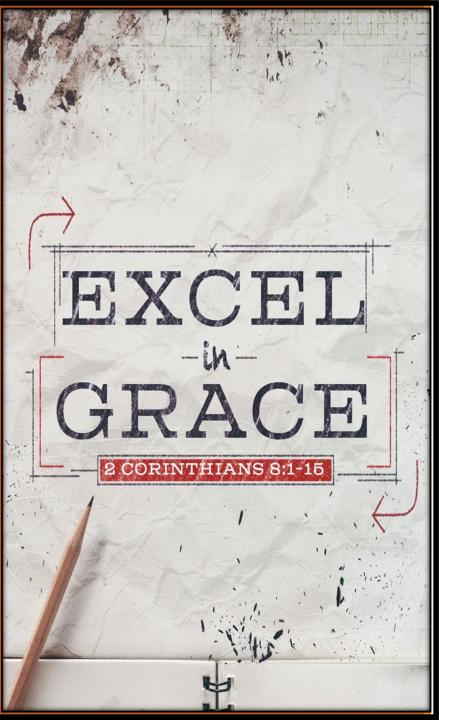
I must be a guest in your home today."

6 Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. 7 But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.

8 Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"

9 Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham.

10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."



Day Twenty Meditation

Romans 15:1 (NASB)

1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves.

Acts 20:35 (NASB)

35 "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Galatians 6:2 (NLT)

2 Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

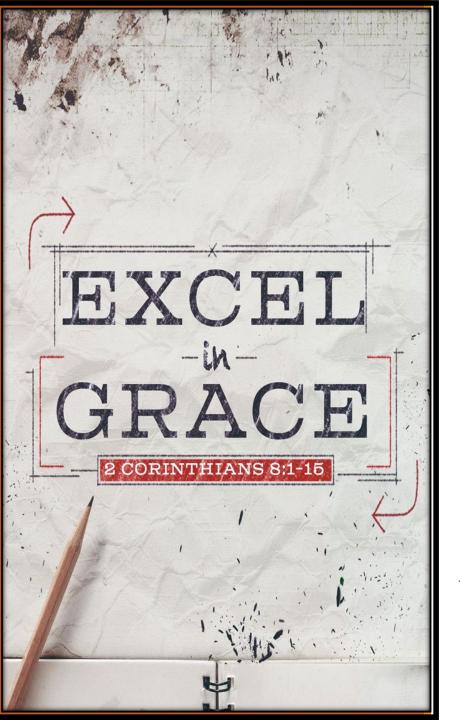
Galatians 6:10 (NLT)

10 Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

Hebrews 13:16 (NLT)

16 And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need.

These are the sacrifices that please God.



Day Twenty Meditation

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NLT)

14 Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak Be patient with everyone.

2 Corinthians 8:12 (NLT)

12 Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly.

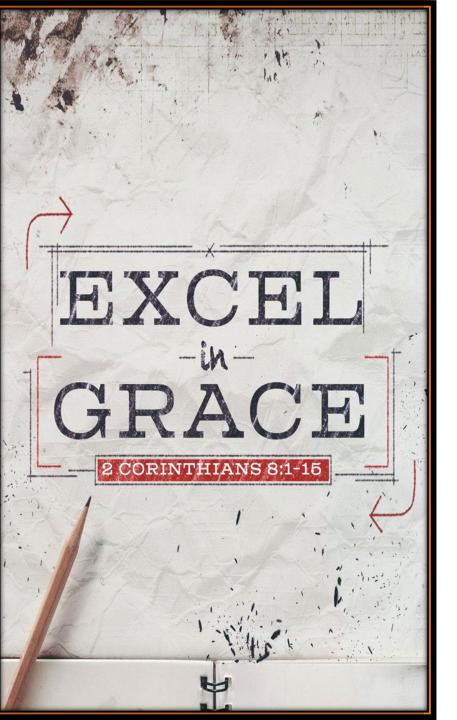
And give according to what you have, not what you don't have.

Deuteronomy 16:17 (NLT)

17 All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God.

1 Timothy 6:18 (NLT)

18 Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others.



Day Twenty Prayer

God, I Thank You For The Opportunity To Give God, I Thank You For The Privilege To Give God, I Thank You For The Seed To Give God, I Thank You For The Freedom To Give God, I Thank You For Using Me To Bless Others God, I Thank You For Blessing Me To Be A Blessing

> God, Continue To Give Me Favor God, Continue To Give Me Blessings God, Continue To Give Me Grace

So That I Can Be A Channel Of Blessings
Whatever You Are Doing In This Season...
Don't Do It Without Me....
In Jesus Name....

Amen