



STUDY GUIDE

2 Corinthians 8:6-15 Acts 2:42-47 (cf. 4:32-35)

“Leaning In with ‘Readiness’”

Pastor Patrick Bowler

10-29-2023

Consult the Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 8:6-15
Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35

(Other Scripture: 2 Cor. 7:5-9, 5:21; 1 Cor. 1:4-9; Rom. 5:6-8; Ex. 16:1-3, 17-21;

Consult the Scholars:

R. Kent Hughes—*“Paul leaves the amount of the gift up to the Corinthians, because he is convinced that ‘the quantity of their giving will match the quality of their changed hearts.’”*¹

Discuss:

Related to your personal devotional time during Leaning In—

1. Is there anything you might want to share related to your time in prayer this week (see *Prayer Journal* in the *Leaning In* booklet)?

¹ R. Kent Hughes, *Preaching the Word: 2 Corinthians* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2006), p. 159.

2. Is there anything you might want to share from working through the *Devotional Journal* provided at one of the Vision Dinners (Note: copies can be found in the *Leaning In* booth)?

Related to this week's sermon during Leaning In—

1. Read Acts 2:42-47 and Acts 4:32-35 and discuss. What are the similarities between these two texts in Acts and Paul's description of the churches in Macedonia in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5?
2. Last week we identified three characteristics of "the grace of God" (ref. 2 Cor. 8:1) related to our generosity: (1) It is voluntary (v. 3), (2) it is passionate (v. 4), and (3) it is prioritized (v. 5). Can you identify these three characteristics in the description of the early church in Acts 2:42-47 and Acts 4:32-35?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 8:6-15 and discuss. What stands out to you in this passage?
4. Pastor Patrick said that we cannot fully mature spiritually as Christians if we haven't committed our finances fully to the Lord (e.g., the ratchet straps) (see Matt. 6:21, 24). Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
5. Read 2 Cor. 8:11. What does Paul mean when he speaks of the Corinthians' readiness in desiring it (i.e., taking part in the gift) being matched by their completing it? How might that relate to *Leaning In*?
6. Read 2 Cor. 8:9. Talk about Jesus' "readiness" being "matched" by His completion. What does that mean for us?
7. Read 2 Cor. 8:15 and discuss (see also Ex. 16, esp. v. 18). What are the implications of this passage in Exodus being cited in the New Testament about generosity?
8. Read the Hughes quote (above) and discuss. Pastor Patrick said the model for generosity in the New Testament is one of proportional giving. What does that mean (see 2 Cor. 12-15)? How does that differ for the Old Testament "tithe" (i.e., "tenth part")? How might the model of proportional giving be more challenging than that of the tithe?
9. What immediate applications can be made following this week's sermon? What questions do you still have?