

Open Handed

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Mike Sadler • Open Handed • August 24, 2025

Generous people are openhanded - not tightfisted

...do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs. Therefore I command you to be openhanded... (Deut. 15:7, 11b)

In 2 Corinthians 8 & 9 the Apostle Paul recounts a story about financial generosity...

- **God's grace produced generous giving** - *"And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches." (2 Cor. 8:1)*
- **Affliction produced selfless action** - *"Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints." (2 Cor. 8:2-4)*
- **Giving becomes sacrificial and sensitive to the needs of others** - *"...they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will." (2 Cor. 8:5)*

A generous life requires a heart change... - *"The heart is*

deceitful above all things and beyond cure..." (Jer. 17:9)

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." (Eze. 36:26)

Two keys to openhanded generosity:

- **The attitude of the heart** - *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7)*

- **To bring praise and honor to God:** *"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but it is also overflowing in many expressions to God." (2 Cor. 9:12)*

- **For obedience to the gospel**

- **For your generosity in sharing**

"...their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Cor. 9:14-15)