



Dr. Jimmy Stewart | June 22, 2025

Sermon | Gospel-Motivated Giving: Grace Overflowing in Generosity

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8

We have received Grace through Jesus. We are to share the Grace we have received. We are to use the resources and gifting the Lord has given us to share the Grace we have received to include but not limited to our financial means.

Summary: In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul turns the attention of the Corinthian church to the grace of God made visible in the generosity of the Macedonian churches. Though afflicted and impoverished, the Macedonians gave joyfully, sacrificially and willingly—not out of obligation but out of overflowing gratitude for the gospel. Paul urges the Corinthians to follow their example—not just to fulfill a previous commitment to give but to abound in this grace also. Gospel-motivated giving is not transactional but transformational. It flows from understanding that Christ, though rich, became poor for our sakes, that we might become spiritually rich through His sacrifice (v. 9). Paul does not command giving but appeals to the authenticity of love. Gospel generosity is proportionate to what one has, marked by eagerness, integrity and follow-through. The chapter ends with commendations of Titus and other faithful brothers—showing that financial stewardship is also a matter of spiritual trustworthiness. The local church reflects God's greatness when it models grace-fueled, sacrificial and cheerful giving—not as a worldly obligation but as an act of worship rooted in Christ's self-giving love.

I. Abundant Joy Becomes Rich Generosity!

• Grace-Fueled Giving

(The Example of the Eager Generosity of Others.)

2 Corinthians 8:1-8

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.

6 So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. 7 Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. 8 I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches.

Great/many - Trials, testing, affliction, ordeals - concerning coins and the weight - was the coin worth its face value or had it been shaved and thus become counterfeit!

- True and Abundant Joy comes from Forgiveness, Salvation, Justification and Sanctification.
- True Joy comes from Victory!!! Victory in Jesus!!!
- True Joy comes from the fellowship of believers. True Joy comes from daily bread and basic needs being met.
- True Joy exists in those who know that this world is temporary and not their permanent home with understanding that they have become children of God and citizens of Heaven.

2 Cor. 8:8 - to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), to recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy.

- Comparison between churches and their response to need through giving.

II. Give In Proportion to What you Have Been Given!

- Mana from heaven - vs. 15

You have been given access to the full Grace of God in Jesus Christ. Priceless.

(Finish What you Started)

2 Corinthians 8:9-15

9 You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

10 Here is my advice: It would be good for you to finish what you started a year ago. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it.

11 Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have.

12 Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have. 13 Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality.

14 Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal. 15 As the Scriptures say,
“Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over,
and those who gathered only a little had enough.”
In proportion to what you have (been given) (hold in your hand)

III. Stewardship Integrity

2 Corinthians 8:16-24

16 But thank God! He has given Titus the same enthusiasm for you that I have. 17 Titus welcomed our request that he visit you again. In fact, he himself was very eager to go and see you. 18 We are also sending another brother with Titus. All the churches praise him as a preacher of the Good News. 19 He was appointed by the churches to accompany us as we take the offering to Jerusalem—a service that glorifies the Lord and shows our eagerness to help.

20 We are traveling together to guard against any criticism for the way we are handling this generous gift. 21 We are careful to be honorable before the Lord, but we also want everyone else to see that we are honorable.

22 We are also sending with them another of our brothers who has proven himself many times and has shown on many occasions how eager he is. He is now even more enthusiastic because of his great confidence in you. 23 If anyone asks about Titus, say that he is my partner who works with me to help you. And the brothers with him have been sent by the churches, and they bring honor to Christ. 24 So show them your love, and prove to all the churches that our boasting about you is justified.

Life Application Sermon Guide:

1. What does it mean to give "according to our means" and even "beyond our means" (v. 3) How has God stretched you in your giving—whether financially, emotionally or in time investment? What might it look like to trust Him with sacrificial generosity?
2. What is the significance of Paul describing giving as a "grace" (vv. 1, 6–7)? In what ways do you see generosity as a measure of spiritual growth and grace in your life and the local church?
3. Verse 5 says the Macedonians "gave themselves first to the Lord." Why is this sequence critical in gospel motivated giving? Before giving to any cause or person, how can we ensure that our hearts are fully surrendered to the Lord? What might be hindering that surrender in your life? How might you move past that hinderance and move forward in surrender (there is no partial surrender)?

4. How does verse 9—Christ's self-giving—serve as the foundation for gospel-motivated generosity? How has meditating on Christ's sacrifice changed your view of money, security, and abundance?
5. Paul emphasizes readiness and follow-through (vv. 10–12). Why are both eagerness and completion necessary in Christian stewardship? Is there a commitment you once made—financial or otherwise—that God is calling you to complete? What's holding you back? What is the next step you need to take?
6. How does Paul promote financial accountability through the commendation of Titus and others (vv. 16–24)? What structures are in place in your church or ministry to ensure integrity in handling resources? Are there ways you can help strengthen trust within the local church? Why is it important for the watching world to see active and effective stewardship within the local church?