

THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT OF GOD

2 Corinthians 8 & 9

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OUR VISION:

To raise up anointed disciple-makers who are empowered to change their world for Christ.

**2022 - OUR YEAR OF
SUPERNATURAL INCREASE**

Genesis 26:12 (ESV)

12 And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The Lord blessed him,

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INTRODUCTION

Giving is a manifest grace of God, that brings joy to the heart which overflows into generosity to the Glory and praise of GOD.

2 Corinthians 8:1 (NKJV)

1 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God
bestowed on the churches of Macedonia

2 Corinthians 8:2 (NLT)

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.

2 Corinthians 9:11-12 (NLT)

And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. 12 So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

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**THE GRACE
OF GIVING**

The Center for the Study of Global Christianity

- \$53,000,000,000,000 – Total income of Christians worldwide is now
- How much do we spend on Christian causes per year? \$896 billion – less than 2% of our income.
- 75% of American Evangelicals believe God wants to bless them but only 1% give!

2 Corinthians 8:1 (NKJV)

1 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God
bestowed on the churches of Macedonia

Romans 12:8 (NLT)

If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give **generously**. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly

2 Corinthians 8:3-4 (NLT)

3 For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

2 Corinthians 8:5-7 (NLT)

5 And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God. 6 So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. 7 But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.

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**GENEROSITY:
THE JOY
OF GIVING**

Generosity begins with God. God is generous.

2 Corinthians 9:8-10 (NLT)

8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 9 As the Scriptures say,

“They share freely and give generously to the poor.

Their good deeds will be remembered forever.”

10 For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

2 Corinthians 8:2 (NLT)

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.

Exodus 35:5 (NLT)

Take a sacred offering for the Lord. Let those with generous hearts present the following gifts to the Lord: gold, silver, and bronze;

Exodus 36: 3-7

But the people continued to bring additional gifts each morning. 4 Finally the craftsmen who were working on the sanctuary left their work. 5 They went to Moses and reported, “The people have given more than enough materials to complete the job the Lord has commanded us to do!” 6 So Moses gave the command, and this message was sent throughout the camp: “Men and women, don’t prepare any more gifts for the sanctuary. We have enough!” So the people stopped bringing their sacred offerings.

Measuring generosity: Shall I give 10% only?

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NLT)

6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

2 Chronicles 31:5

When the people of Israel heard these requirements, they responded **generously** by bringing the first share of their grain, new wine, olive oil, honey, and all the produce of their fields. They brought a large quantity—a tithe of all they produced.

2 Corinthians 8:9-15 (NLT)

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.

2 Corinthians 8:9-15 (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.** 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.”***

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**THANKFULNESS
OF GIVING**

2 Corinthians 9:11 & 12b (NLT)

And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.

12.....and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

2 Corinthians 8:3-4 (NLT)

10 For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

12 So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. 13 As a result of your ministry, **they will give glory to God**. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. 14 And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. 15 Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

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CONCLUSION

Psalm 112

1 Praise the Lord!

How joyful are those who fear the Lord
and delight in obeying his commands.

2 Their children will be successful everywhere;
an entire generation of godly people will be blessed.

3 They themselves will be wealthy,
and their good deeds will last forever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the godly.
They are generous, compassionate, and righteous.

Psalm 112

5 Good comes to those who lend money generously and conduct their business fairly.

6 Such people will not be overcome by evil.

Those who are righteous will be long remembered.

7 They do not fear bad news;

they confidently trust the Lord to care for them.

8 They are confident and fearless

and can face their foes triumphantly.

Psalm 112

- 9 They share freely and give generously to those in need.
Their good deeds will be remembered forever.
They will have influence and honor.
- 10 The wicked will see this and be infuriated.
They will grind their teeth in anger;
they will slink away, their hopes thwarted.

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