

GIVE UNTIL IT FEELS GOOD!

By Pastor Lee Allen Jenkins
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Obedience + Time = Joy!

But since you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you - see that you also excel in this [grace of giving](#).

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)

The Grace of Giving is:

The [supernatural ability](#) to contribute one's material resources to the needs of others and to the work of the Lord in a generous and cheerful manner.

Apostle Paul: Overseer and Bishop

Titus: Paul's spiritual son; Senior Pastor of the Corinthian Church

Corinthian Church: Spiritually vibrant and financially rich congregation.

Macedonian Churches: Spiritually vibrant but poor congregations.

Jerusalem Christians: People who desperately needed financial help.

How Do You Give Until It Feels Good?

1. By giving generously **DESPITE YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES!**

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a [very severe trial](#), their [overflowing joy](#) and their [extreme poverty](#) welled up in [rich generosity](#).

2 Corinthians 8:1-2 (NIV)

Severe Trials + Extreme Poverty = Overflowing Joy + Rich Generosity!

"I never would have been able to give from my millions if I had not tithed off of my first job which paid 1.50 a week." **John D. Rockefeller**

2. By giving generously **BEYOND YOUR ABILITY!**

*For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even [beyond their ability](#). Entirely on their own. **2 Corinthians 8:3 (NIV)***

3. By giving generously **TO THE LORD'S WORK!**

They *urgently pleaded with us* for the privilege of *sharing in this service to the Lord's people*. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all *to the Lord*, and then by the will of God *also to us*.

2 Corinthians 8:4-5 (NIV)

Bring the whole tithe into *the storehouse*, that there may be food in *my house*.

Malachi 3:10a (NIV)

When you give to the poor, *it is like lending to the Lord*, and the Lord will pay you back. **Proverbs 19:17 (GNT)**

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:35-36, 40 (NIV)

*I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though *he was rich*, yet for your sake *he became poor*, so that you through his poverty might *become rich*.* **2 Corinthians 8:8-9 (NIV)**