

# GIVING Movement

A photograph showing a person's hands holding a small, rectangular white card. The card has the word "give" written on it in a black, cursive font. The hands are positioned as if presenting the card. The background is a light-colored wooden surface with a prominent grain. The overall composition is centered and has a warm, natural feel.

give

# GIVING MOVEMENT

BIBLE STUDY LESSONS  
FOR C.O.R.E. GROUP  
DISCIPLESHIP



# Generosity in Lack

- Share an unforgettable experience when something you would consider a miracle happened to meet a great need.
- What are some things you are willing to sacrifice for the benefit of others?

# READ THIS

<sup>1</sup> We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup> for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup> For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, <sup>4</sup> begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— <sup>5</sup> and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. <sup>6</sup> Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. <sup>7</sup> But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. <sup>8</sup> I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. <sup>9</sup> 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 by his poverty might become rich.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9 ESV

(See also Acts 4:32-37)

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Paul wrote to the church in Corinth partly to encourage them to excel in the grace of giving. He emphasized the importance of generous giving and the blessings that accompany it. He used the example of the Macedonian churches who gave beyond their means despite their extreme poverty.

# LEARN LIFE

How can you live  
out God's  
generous favor in  
your life?

## How should we see generosity in times of lack?

### 1. Generosity is a grace from God.

*We want to tell you further, brethren, about the grace (the favor and spiritual blessing) of God which has been evident in the churches of Macedonia [arousing in them the desire to give alms];*

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1 AMPC

The grace of God highlights His divine favor and blessings, allowing the Macedonian churches to support those in need. By doing so, they fulfilled Jesus' command to help the least and gained His commendation (see Matthew 25:40). This grace empowered them to give generously, even amid their severe trial.

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### 2. Generosity is voluntary and genuine.

<sup>3</sup> *For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, <sup>4</sup> begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints.*

2 CORINTHIANS 8:3,4

The Macedonian churches were inspired to contribute to the needs of the church in Jerusalem. Their decision to give was entirely voluntary. The members of the Macedonian churches were so moved by Paul's teachings on generosity that they earnestly begged to take part in contributing their share to help fellow believers in need.

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*What adjustments would you make to prioritize others' needs before your own?*

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### **3. Generosity is a commitment to God and a compassionate act towards others.**

<sup>4</sup> ... begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—<sup>5</sup> and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

**2 CORINTHIANS 8:4,5**

It is evident that the Macedonian churches had faith in God's provision, and their generosity beyond their means reflected their love for Christ and other people.

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*How do you think God could use you in prioritizing others' needs above your own?*

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# LET'S PRAY

- Ask God for an opportunity to help someone in need this week.
- Pray for God's overflowing provision to flow through you in order to bless others in need.

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# LET'S APPLY

- *How can you encourage fellow believers to give generously to support the Lord's work?*
- *Is there someone in need that you would like to bless with your resources? How can you show your generosity to this person this week?*

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# Generosity in Abundance

- What would you do if you inherited a large amount of money?
- How would you respond if asked to donate some of that money to a charity or foundation?

# READ THIS

<sup>1</sup> So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the Lord has commanded.” <sup>2</sup> Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work. <sup>3</sup> They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. <sup>4</sup> So all the skilled workers who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left what they were doing <sup>5</sup> and said to Moses, “The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done.” <sup>6</sup> Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: “No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary.” And so the people were restrained from bringing more, <sup>7</sup> because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work.

EXODUS 36:1-7 NIV

(See also 1 Chronicles 29:9,14,17-18)

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In the previous chapter (Exodus 35), we see a beautiful example of the Israelites giving willingly and generously to the construction of the Tabernacle. They responded eagerly, giving so much that Moses had to ask them to stop because the building project had received so more than enough for the resources required.

## Why should we be even more generous during times of abundance?

## 1. Because everything we have came from God.

<sup>1</sup> So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the Lord has commanded.” <sup>2</sup> Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work.

## EXODUS 36:1,2

Moses summoned every skilled worker to begin building the Lord's Tabernacle. The workers received from Moses all the contributions the Israelites had brought for the construction of the sanctuary in response to the Lord's command to provide the necessary materials.

Since everything we have comes from God—our skills, time, finances, and more—how would you acknowledge this truth and give back to Him from what He has already given you?

## 2. Because we want to obey what God has called us to do.

They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning.

*EXODUS 36:3*

The people responded generously to Moses' request for help after God had commanded them to provide materials for the construction of the Tabernacle. They continued to bring far more than was needed.

*How can you obey God generously with the provisions you have received from Him?*

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## 3. Because we want to participate in the bigger work of God.

<sup>3</sup> They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. <sup>4</sup> So all the skilled workers who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left what they were doing <sup>5</sup> and said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done."

*EXODUS 36:3-5*

The generosity of the people was overwhelming, and the materials they gave were more than enough for the work of constructing the Tabernacle. Their large contributions showed their wholehearted willingness to give for the work of God.

*What motivates you to give generously towards the Lord's work?*

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# LET'S PRAY

- Ask God to help you take an active part generously in the ministry of the church.
- Pray for the Lord to use you as His generous instrument to bless someone among or outside your family.

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# LET'S APPLY

- Our church sends short-term mission teams to other nations annually. How can you take part in this initiative?
- This week, look for opportunities to be a blessing to our church community or a member who is needy.

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