

# EXCEL IN GIVING

## next75 Message Series Week 2

### 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

Pastor Jeff Burkholder

February 8, 2026

#### We can excel in the grace of giving by...

1. **Trusting God will provide for our needs.**

(2 Corinthians 8:1-3, 9:6-8; Philippians 4:19;  
Matthew 6:31-34)

2. **Giving ourselves to the Lord.** (2 Corinthians 8:5;  
Romans 12:1)

3. **Living in light of Jesus and the gospel.** (2 Corinthians 8:9)

“Jesus gave not just a tenth of himself, but all of his riches. He embraced poverty so that we might become rich (2 Cor. 8:9). His radical act of total self-giving is the only thing that can consistently move us to give beyond the minimum. In essence, if we don’t desire to respond to God’s grace with sacrificial giving, then we have not yet fully understood the nature of the gospel. The answer to our motivation problem is not adherence to a new command but a more thoroughgoing knowledge and experience of the extravagant self-giving of Christ.”

*The ESV Gospel Transformation Bible, Crossway,  
Wheaton, IL, 2013, pp. 1563-1564.*

#### **\*Faith Covenant Sunday:**

Be asking God what He wants you to contribute to the next75 and bring your Faith Covenant cards to church on Sunday, February 22. Seek. Listen. Obey.

## **Creative Ways to Give:**

### **1. Designate Tax Refunds or Bonus Income**

For the next three years, prayerfully commit all or a portion of your income tax refunds, work bonuses, or unexpected financial blessings.

### **2. Sacrifice a Regular Comfort**

Choose something meaningful to you—a streaming service, frequent dining out, a vacation upgrade, a hobby expense—and redirect those funds to the campaign.

### **3. Sell Something of Value**

Consider selling an item that has value but is no longer essential—a recreational item, unused equipment, collectibles, or secondary vehicle—and joyfully give the proceeds.

### **4. Commit to Percentage Giving from Side Income**

Dedicate a percentage of side jobs, freelance work, business income, or seasonal work over the next three years (for example, 10-50%).

### **5. Delay a Purchase**

Postpone a significant purchase—home renovation, technology upgrade, furniture replacement, vacation—and give toward the campaign instead.

### **6. Investment Gifts**

Giving shares of stock or mutual funds can be a desirable way to give. By giving the investment before you sell it, you can avoid capital gains taxes and may receive a tax deduction for the full market value of your gift.