

The Grace of Giving

Read: 2 Corinthians 8:10-9:5

Main idea: We must be dedicated to giving as individuals and as a church so that gospel ministry can continue to go forth in our city and around the world.

Key Verses: “So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.” (9:5 ESV)

Key Principles:

- Generosity should flow from a willing heart that understands the importance of giving, not from reluctance or pressure.
- Generosity honors a commitment from believers to give eagerly and to showcase integrity and faithfulness.
- Generosity serves as an example to others that inspires them to act by giving towards God’s work as well.
- Giving generously shows faith in God’s ability to provide and mirrors the grace that we’ve received in Christ.
- Preparation is key to ensuring that giving is joyful and intentional, not rushed or begrudging.

Discussion:

1. Why do you think Paul stresses preparation and willingness in giving? How does this apply to us today?
2. Why should giving not be done under pressure? What is the proper motivation for giving?
3. In what ways can generosity demonstrate faithfulness to God’s mission?
4. How have you seen examples of one person’s or group’s generosity inspiring others to give? If you give, what or whom inspired you to start giving?
5. Why is it important to honor commitments in our giving? What does this teach us about integrity?
6. How does trusting God’s provision free us to give more generously?
7. What steps can you take to prepare your heart and resources for generosity?

Prayer:

- Pray for a heart that gives willingly and joyfully, trusting God to meet every need.
- Pray:
 - That we would follow through with our commitments in ministry and missions.
 - That our giving would inspire others to support God’s work through giving.
 - That we would remember God’s abundant grace in blessing us with all we have.

The Grace of Giving
2 Corinthians 8:10-9:5

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| I. | Be a <u>faithful</u> giver. | 8:10-15 |
| 1. | Trust God to <u>meet</u> your <u>needs</u> . | 8:10-13 |
| 2. | Trust God to <u>use</u> your <u>abundance</u> . | 8:13-15 |
| II. | Be an <u>honest</u> giver. | 8:16-24 |
| 1. | Be honest about your <u>heart</u> . | 8:16-17 |
| 2. | Be honest about your <u>ministry</u> . | 8:18-21 |
| 3. | Be honest about your <u>goals</u> . | 8:22-24 |
| III. | Be a <u>consistent</u> giver. | 9:1-5 |
| 1. | Your <u>generosity</u> will <u>inspire</u> others. | 9:1-2 |
| 2. | Your <u>stinginess</u> will <u>infect</u> others. | 9:3-5 |

NEXT WEEK:
A Grateful Generosity
2 Corinthians 9:6-15