

THE GRACE OF GIVING

When have you ever experienced greater joy from giving something away than from receiving something and what made it memorable?

TALK ABOUT IT

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5.

Despite experiencing severe trials and extreme poverty, the Macedonian Christians demonstrated remarkable generosity. **What do you think moved them to give so freely despite their circumstances?**

You can Google anyone serving in a political office, including the President of the United States, and see what they make for doing the job. **Why do you think people are so private about their money?**

Paul emphasizes giving according to what we have, rather than what we don't have (vs. 12-15). **How does this challenge the way our culture typically measures generosity?**

Paul connects generosity with spiritual maturity and describes giving as a test of the sincerity of our love. **Why do you think our willingness to give can reveal something about our spiritual condition?**

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9.

Paul points to Jesus as the ultimate example of generosity. He embraced poverty here and gave up glory with God for our sake. **How does understanding what Christ has given us change the way we think about giving to others?**

APPLY IT

What are some of the biggest obstacles that keep people from being generous?

How do fear, financial insecurity, and the desire for more influence our willingness to give?

Paul describes giving as an act of grace rather than simply a financial obligation. **What's the difference between giving out of guilt or duty and giving out of gratitude and love?**

The Macedonians viewed giving as a privilege, not a burden. **What would need to change in our thinking for us to approach generosity with that same attitude?**

PRAY

Generosity is about more than the amount we give. It's about the condition of our hearts. Developing a plan for giving will only come when our hearts receive the example of Jesus by giving his all for the good of others. Start with a prayer of gratitude for what Jesus did for our sake. Hopefully, generosity will grow out of our gratitude.