

Experiencing The Joy Of Generosity

Series: *Be Generous*
2 Corinthians 8:1-15
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Senior Pastor: Chad Moore

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. 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 8:1-7

Main Idea: Experiencing the joy of generosity requires excelling in the grace of giving because it shows real love for God and for people.

I. Realize The First Step In Generosity Is Committing Yourself To The Lord

*Your generosity reveals your heart.

And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. (Vs. 5)

II. Realize Giving Is An Act Of Worship

*All of worship begins with sacrifice.

In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. (Vs. 2)

I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹For 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. (Vs. 8-9)

III. Understand That Generosity Is Proportional, Not Absolute

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. ¹⁴At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, ¹⁵as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little." (Vs. 13-15)

IV. Trust You Can Never Out Give God

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

Next Steps:

1. Get started today.
2. Automate it. What gets scheduled gets done.