

## 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

<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<sup>[b]</sup> 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.

[b 2 Corinthians 8:4 The Greek word *charis* can mean *favor* or *grace* or *thanks*, depending on the context]

**2 Corinthians 9:7** Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

**2 Corinthians 12:15** I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls.



## Discussion questions

What do you make of the Macedonian church's joy in sacrificial giving? Could you ever see yourself giving sacrificially and finding joy in it?

## 'It's all about the money'?

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- The Giving Pledge

### GOSPEL GIVING...

#### 1. ...Follows the Macedonian Model

- Sacrificial
- Joyful<sup>1</sup>
- It's a work of God
- It's all FOR God

#### 2. ...Follows Jesus' Model

#### 3. ...Reveals our beliefs

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Tim 4:4, 6:17