

## A Legacy of Generosity 2 Corinthians 8

### A legacy of generosity grows out of God's grace in our lives. II Corinthians 8:1-5

*"Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia..." (v.1)*

- His grace will carry us through affliction and pressure. (v.1-2) II Corinthians 8:13, Philippians 4:14  
*"That in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality."*
- His grace inspires us to give our very best to the Lord and others. (v.3-5)  
*"For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God"*

### A legacy of generosity reflects my authentic spiritual life. II Corinthians 8:6-9

- Because generosity is a spiritual issue not financial. (v.7)  
*"But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also."*
- Because generosity is a willing act of love, not forced. (v.8)  
*"I am not speaking this as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also"*
- Because generosity is Christ-led not people driven. (v.9)  
*"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 through His poverty might become rich."*

### A legacy of generosity finishes well to pass it on. II Corinthians 8:10-16

- Finish well by a generosity from your mind, heart and deeds. (v.10-11)  
*"But now finish doing it also, so that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability."*

Readiness -

Desire -

Ability -

- Finish well because God will supply what you need for others. (v.12-16)  
*"At this present time your abundance being a supply for their need, so that their abundance also may become a supply for your need, that there may be equality"*

**If you could summarize your life in seven words, what would they be?**

## LifeGroup Discussion:

Throughout February we have learned about the importance of generosity. Use the following areas for discussion to review some of the key points on generosity. Read through the points below and discuss the questions together.

### Our God is a generous God:

- God has a heart of generosity and wants us to grow with a heart of generosity as well.  
**Read Exodus 35:21. Who stirred their hearts to generosity?**
- Spend some time in I Chronicles 29:2-9.  
**Why did the people rejoice? Why do you think there was such joy in their generosity? According to I Chronicles 29:5, what must first be consecrated to the Lord to have such joy in generosity? In I Chronicles 29:6, how did the people give when their heart is right with the Lord?**
- In I Chronicles 29:11-13, David offered one of the great prayers in the Bible.  
**What does it teach you about our riches and God's generosity?**
- **From today's passage, what remarkable generous traits do you see in the Macedonians in II Corinthians 8:3-5? Why did were they generous according to vs. 5? How is that true for you?**

### Generosity can be easy:

- When you pursue real contentment. I Timothy 6:6-8  
*"But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment"* (v.6) II Corinthians 8:3-5
- **What is God's view of things in this world from I Timothy 6:7? How does Ecclesiastes 5:13-15 support that?**
- **What is God's view of our real needs in I Timothy 6:8? What balance does Proverbs 30:7-9 teach?**
- Contentment must be pursued constantly because a lack of contentment is dangerous.  
**What danger is lurking when you lack contentment and pursue money according to I Timothy 6:17-19?**
- Contentment grows when we manage our money God's way.  
**What does I Timothy 6:17-19 instruct us to do with our finances?**

### We can overcome our fear of generosity when we develop healthy spiritual habits of giving:

- **What principles of giving and healthy habits do II Corinthians 9:5, 7 and I Corinthians 16:1-2 teach you? How well are you developing those healthy habits?**
- **How well is your giving meeting these guidelines from II Corinthians 9:9-15?**
  - Vs. 12 - Am I contributing to fully supply the needs of the saints?
  - Vs. 12 - Am I able to giving thanks to God for the gifts?
  - Vs. 13 - Is God being glorified as I obey Him?
  - Vs 13 - Is the gospel of Christ advanced by my gifts?
  - Vs. 14 - Is there a strong bond created with the believers from my support?

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## Next Steps:

1. **Attend a Generous Living Event.** Generous Living is Calvary's financial discipleship ministry. Their passion is for every believer in Jesus to experience the blessing that comes from living a balanced and generous life. Check out the upcoming Generous Living classes and learn more at [calvarylife.org/generous](http://calvarylife.org/generous)
2. **Prepare Your Will or Trust.** Calvary Church, in partnership with Christian Trustmaker, wants to help you with this important area of stewardship. Christian Trustmaker helps you prepare quality estate planning documents that reflects your love for family and God. Fill out the card in the bulletin today and drop it in the Offering bags or buckets to begin the process and receive a 20% discount. [calvarylife.org/legacy](http://calvarylife.org/legacy)