

# ***God's Grace and the Grace of Generosity***

---

## ***2 Corinthians 8:1-5***

**Title: The Grace of God and  
the Grace of Generosity.**

**Text: 2 Cor. 8:1-5**

**Date: March 8, 2026**

---

**An \_\_\_\_\_ of generosity: the Macedonian churches  
(2 Corinthians 8:1-5).**

- 1. The background of their giving: God's \_\_\_\_\_ and  
great \_\_\_\_\_ (v.1-2).**

**2 Corinthians 8:1–2 Now brothers, we make known to you  
the grace of God which has been given in the churches of  
Macedonia, that in a great testing by affliction their  
abundance of joy and their deep poverty abounded unto  
the richness of their generosity.**

**“has been given” - to be granted or handed down; a past  
action with present results.**

**God's grace is \_\_\_\_\_ God-exalting generosity.**

Why does it matter to know God's grace is behind generosity?

- It brings into focus who deserves the praise: \_\_\_\_\_.
- It provides direction for what we should \_\_\_\_\_ for when we struggle to give: God's grace and to love grace.
- It makes giving more \_\_\_\_\_ because we know the grace of God is at work when we are generous.

"in a great testing by affliction" – this refers to a significant difficult circumstance brought on by God for their growth.

In this severe hardship two things characterized the Macedonian believers:

- "their abundance of joy"
- "their deep poverty"

"their generosity" – the Macedonians gave liberally without ulterior motives or desires.

The equation: great hardship + deep poverty + joy = rich generosity.

God's grace at work in His people produces \_\_\_\_\_ generosity.

**2. The nature of their giving: generous, free, passionate, and sacrificial (v.3-5).**

**2 Corinthians 8:3–5 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 grace of sharing in the ministry to 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.**

“For I testify” – Paul is a firsthand witness of Macedonians giving.

“according to their ability, and beyond their ability” – Paul can testify of what he thought they were able to give and how they went above and beyond it.

“of their own accord” – voluntary, self-determined.

**2 Corinthians 9:7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

What’s so great about giving that they would be eager and excited to do so?

The Macedonians wanted to share (fellowship in, participate in) the grace of giving sacrificially to the saints.

Showing generosity is a grace of God we get to \_\_\_\_\_ in that blesses and benefits us.

“and this, not as we had expected” – the Macedonian’s giving was beyond what any of Paul’s group expected them to be able to give.

“but they first gave of themselves to the Lord and to us” – a crucial phrase for understanding the reason behind the Macedonian’s eager, free, and sacrificial generosity.

The Macedonians’ giving was above all else due to their \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord.

The \_\_\_\_\_ for generosity: God’s promise (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

**1 Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty or to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.**

**Matthew 6:19 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.**

“who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy” – Paul does not disparage material blessings or discourage people from enjoying what they have, but he connects them to God’s grace.

**1 Timothy 6:18–19 Command them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.**

“rich in good works” – to fill their lives with good works.

What kind of good works?

- “generous” – well with giving, a willing open hand.
- “ready to share” – prepared to share with others.

“storing up” – laying up, deposit, to secure.

**Matthew 6:20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal**

“of a good foundation for the future” – “good” meaning reliable, beneficial, trustworthy.

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose” - Jim Elliot

“we take hold of life indeed” – life truly; life at its best according to God.

We have life at its true \_\_\_\_\_ (according to our Maker) when we are generous with what we have.

How do we radically give showing that the grace of God has been given to us?

- We sacrificially give to our local \_\_\_\_\_.
- We are eager to support other brothers and sisters in \_\_\_\_\_.
- We show radical \_\_\_\_\_ towards one another.
- We display radical generosity, big and small, when God providentially provides the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Paul use an example in 2 Cor. 8:1-5 of grace-caused generosity to encourage the Corinthians to give? Why are examples such powerful teachers of godliness?
2. How does God's grace influence a believer's generosity? What does it mean for a believer to give themselves to the Lord? How does it impact generosity (2 Cor. 8:5)?
3. What does it mean to store up treasures in heaven? Why is it easier to store up treasures on earth than to store up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19-20)?
4. As a group or on your own, come up with "normal acts" (by which I mean things that can be regular practices) of radical generosity you can practice that display that God's grace is at work in you?
5. Why is the generous life, "life indeed" according to Paul (1 Timothy 6:19)?



**Blanks:** example, grace, trial, behind, God, pray, worshipful, radical, participate, devotion, reward, best, church, need, hospitality, opportunity.