

The Grace of Giving (2 Corinthians Chapter 8)

- The only kind of giving that is truly acceptable to God is expressed in one simple and beautiful word: _____!
- *2 Corinthians 8:7* "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in the grace of giving."
- The church in Corinth had agreed to be a part of a _____, a relief offering for poor and suffering Christians in Jerusalem.
- Paul _____ his appeal to a higher spiritual level. He teaches them that giving is an act of grace.
- Paul used _____ different words to refer to the collection. He used the word grace _____ times.

Five evidences of giving out of grace.

1. We give in spite of our _____ (V:1-2)
 - A. The church in Macedonia had experienced severe _____, but they gave _____.
 - B. They gave joyfully, and they gave " _____ their ability."
 - C. Formula: Great _____ and poverty + grace = abundant joy and abounding _____. Liberality is the quality of giving _____.
2. We give _____ (V:3-4)
 - A. It is possible to give _____ and not enthusiastically.
 - B. Grace not only frees us from our sins, but it frees us from ourselves. The grace of God opens our _____, and it opens our _____.
3. When we give as _____ gave (V:5-9)
 - A. It is not our _____ that we give to the Lord first, but _____.
 - B. When we give ourselves to God, we don't have a problem giving our _____ to God.
 - C. We must never argue that the ministry of our spiritual gifts is a _____ for generous grace giving.
 - D. Paul was not _____ the church to give. He was contrasting the _____ of the churches.
 - E. Christ's ultimate _____ of poverty was when He made Himself sin on the cross. Hell is _____ poverty for the unbeliever.
4. We give _____ (V:10-12)

- A. There is a big difference between promise and _____. Grace must come from a willing heart. It can't be _____ or coerced.
- B. If the willing is _____ and in the will of God, there will be a performance.
- C. God sees the _____ and not the hand gift.
- D. God records what is in the heart, no matter _____ the offering in the hand might be.
5. When we give by _____ (V:13-24)
- A. Paul is not _____ that the rich become poor, so the poor can become rich.
- B. Paul saw it as an issue of "_____."
- C. The lesson of the miracle of manna. (Exodus 16) Gather what you _____, share what you can, and don't _____ the blessings.
- D. We will always have need. Our need drives us to _____ Him.
6. At verse 16 there is a shift from spiritual principals to _____ council. Paul says there are certain _____ for people who handle money.
- Desire to _____: (V:16-17) You don't want someone on a financial committee or board that doesn't have a desire to serve.
 - Burden for _____: (V:18) We don't know who the brother is, but he is "praised by all the churches for his service to the Gospel.
 - A _____ to honor God: (V:19) One of the most spiritual things a church can do is use its money wisely for spiritual ministry.
 - A reputation for _____: (V:20-22) Paul wanted to avoid blame or criticism in the eyes of man.
 - A _____ spirit: (V:23-24) Paul had Titus who was a great team member and coworker. He was a great partner and fellow helper.

