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We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,

²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

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⁶Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷But 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. —2 Corinthians 8:1-7 ESV

Needs in Jerusalem and Judea
Challenges of Growth
Realities of Persecution
Demands of Taxation

³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—⁵and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

Thessalonica

Aegean Sea

Ephesus

Corinth

Mediterranean Sea

Jerusalem

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1

Biblical Instruction on the Grace of Giving

Realize your opportunity for spiritual growth

through giving.

In all things I have shown you

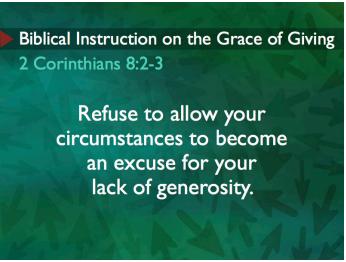
that by working hard in this way

we must help the weak and

remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said,

"It is more blessed to give than

to receive." —Acts 20:35 ESV



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...give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.—Luke 6:38 ESV

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"Apparently many Christians don't believe God's promises. They carry around the idea that they have to protect everything they have and hold on to it. They become hoarders and they become stingy and they become self-indulgent and protective. It's really a matter of faith. It's a question of trust and belief. You either believe it or you don't. If you do, you give because giving is more blessed and giving causes God to give back in greater abundance."

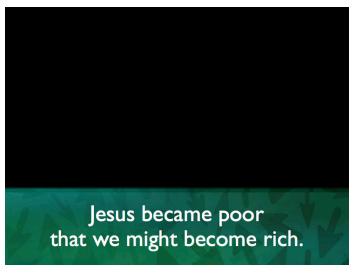
—John MacArthur

Biblical Instruction on the Grace of Giving 2 Corinthians 8:8-15

Repent of your tendency to make giving a matter of convenience rather than sacrifice.

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2

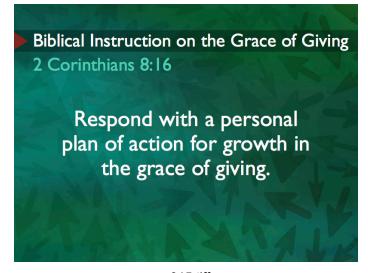


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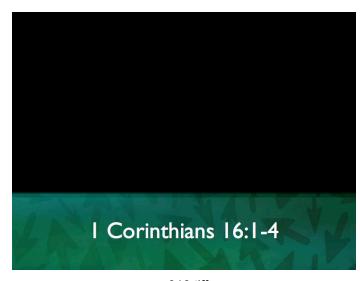
But the king [David] said to
Araunah, "No, but I will buy it from
you for a price. I will not offer
burnt offerings to the Lord my God
that cost me nothing." So David
bought the threshing floor and the
oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

—2 Samuel 24:24 ESV

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