

Moving the Chains toward Gratitude: Sack Materialism

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

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2 Corinthians 8:1-9 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you-- see that you also excel in this grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. 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. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church, and Community

1. _____ grace to overwhelm materialism

_____ grace: You continue to realize the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ who for your sake chose to become destitute even though he had untold wealth. His purpose was to transform your bankrupt souls with the riches of his grace and love!

Corinthians 8:9 (JOT)

_____ to bless: It works like this: the one who sows as a tight-fisted miser, reaps stinginess, but the one who generously sows blessings as God's servant, will generously reap eternal blessings!

2 Corinthians 9:6 (JOT)

2. _____ plays to sack materialism

_____ joy: Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

2 Corinthians 8:1-2 (NLT)

_____ the best priorities: Without reservation, they willingly committed to give. They urgently and repeatedly asked to participate in this gracious gift...it was beyond what we could have hoped for...their first priority was giving to the Lord!

2 Corinthians 8:3-4 (JOT)

_____ growth: Just as you have wealth in every area of your faith, in talking the talk, in your knowledge of God, in your enthusiasm for spiritual things, increase your wealth of spiritual strength through the grace of giving. I am not commanding you but I do think this is a test of the sincerity of your love!

2 Corinthians 8:7-8 (JOT)

3. _____ the standard of measure

_____ to greater grace: "Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity."

Luke 6:38 (MSG)

Spiritual Action Step:

Where do you need to be more generous in your life? How are you sharing in God's work in this world to transform the lives of others? Are you giving joyfully through love? Let the story of God's grace through Jesus lead you to find the richness of God's presence. Allow this grace to share with you a life-changing gratitude through giving. Take a small step of giving through the Faith Commitment Card and allow the joy of sharing in ministry to enrich your heart and spirit. This week read 2 Corinthians 8-9 to reflect on the powerful grace of Jesus, who gave up everything to share with us the wealth of new life and hope eternal.