

## Faith Promise Giving

### II Corinthians 8:6-15

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**Introduction:** We read in I Chronicles 29 how David made ready for the building of the Temple (which will be built by Solomon). David asked for offerings to be collected in order for the Temple to be constructed. David asks in 29:5, “*And who then is willing to consecrate his service (offerings) this day unto the LORD?*” Their response is given in verse 9, “*Then the people rejoiced for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.*” Then we hear David declare: “*Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, & praise Thy glorious name. But who am I, & what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of Thee, & of Thine own have we given Thee?*” (29:13-14). Chapters 8 & 9 of II Corinthians give us the most detailed exposition of true Christian giving in the N.T. Note with me this morning that faith promise is again discussed. Last Sunday morning we considered the principles of faith promise giving in verses 1-5. This morning we center our attention on the purposes for faith promise giving in verses 6-15.

I. The **first** purpose for faith promise giving > We are to give because of our maturity in faith (:7) > **Enjoy it!**

A. The Corinthians already abounded (exhibited) in:

1. “*Faith*” – “Sanctifying trust in the Lord” (MacArthur).
2. “*Utterance*” – speech or sound doctrine.
3. “*Knowledge*” – ability to apply doctrine.
4. “*Diligence*” – eagerness or earnestness.
5. “*Love*” – concern for others.

B. The Corinthians are asked to abound (exhibit) the “*grace*” (gift) of giving:

1. They are to follow the example of the Macedonians in the grace of generosity.
2. “The ability to give is also a gift, but, unlike the other gifts, it is an act that demonstrates all the other intangible gifts of faith, utterance, knowledge, diligence, & love” (Nutz).
3. The “grace” (or gift) of giving is an indication of one’s spiritual maturity.

II. The **second** purpose for faith promise giving > We are to give because of our sincerity of love (:8) > **Prove it!**

A. The example of the Macedonians:

1. “*Not by commandment*” – giving is not to be legalistic, but voluntary & spontaneous.
2. “*Occasion*” – opportunity.
3. “*Forwardness of others*” – earnest zeal.

B. The exhortation to the Corinthians:

1. “*To prove*” – put to the test; show genuineness.
2. “*Sincerity of your love*” – “evidence of warm-hearted liberality” (Hughes).
3. Giving is to originate out of a heart of love.

III. The **third** purpose for faith promise giving > We are to give because of our conformity to Christ (:9) > **Show it!**

A. The declaration of Christ’s grace:

1. He was rich > His prior existence & perfect enjoyment (glory & praise of God).
2. He became poor > His condescension & humiliation.
3. That we might become rich > from spiritual poverty (our helpless, hopeless, hell-bound condition) to spiritual prosperity (salvation, security, sufficiency).

B. The demonstration of our conformity:

1. The *basis* of Christian giving – “We do it for the Lord & the brethren because of the love of God within us. To give in this manner is to be like God who gave everything in Christ” (Nutz).
2. The *blessing* of Christian giving - “If this love of Christ, so magnanimous in its motive & so self-sacrificing in its execution, is an active force in the believers’ heart, how unnecessary, the apostle implies, any command to practice almsgiving ought to be. What, without the love, might seem a cold moral duty has been transformed by it into a joyous privilege” (Tasker).

[Illustration: In light of II Corinthians 8:9 > “...And yet we argue about a tithe. God forgive us! We argue about how much we should give. Christian giving is never by commandment...” (Redpath, p. 149).]

IV. The fourth purpose for faith promise giving > We are to give because of our generosity for others (:10-15)  
> **Share it!**

A. The motive for our giving:

1. “Grace giving is a matter of faith: we obey God & believe that He will meet our needs as we help to meet the needs of others” (Wiersbe).
2. “*Readiness to will*” – a ready & eager spirit; “*willing mind*” – a heart eager & desirous to give (cf. 9:7).

B. The measure of our giving:

1. “*According to that a man hath*” – Paul expects the Corinthians (& us) to give according to what we have, not according to what we expect God to provide.

Note: “The concept of giving something to the Lord if the Lord sends it in is foreign to the theology of the Apostle Paul. The true reality of giving in the N.T. church is simple this: give spontaneously to the Lord’s work from those things we possess; that expresses our love for the Lord & the brethren. Giving out of what we expect to have expresses nothing & violates the scriptural principle of giving” (Nutz).

[Illustrate: :He (Paul) expected these believers to give of their means from which God has supplied & not from what they expected Him to supply...the give-if-I-get mentality has no basis in the Scripture at all” (Nutz).]

2. “*But by an equality*” – At this time, the church in Jerusalem has the need; in the future, it may be the Corinthians who stand in need.

Note: The word, *equality*, can be translated “balance or equilibrium.” “There should be a mutual give-and-take, so that all men, particularly fellow-Christians, may be relieved of the burden of undeserved want” (Tasker).

Conclusion: The Corinthian church had made a “faith promise.” Yet they had failed to follow through on that promise. Therefore, Paul writes these 2 chapters to exhort & explain what true Christian giving is all about. We saw here last week in 8:1-5 the principles of faith promise giving. The 4 principles we have seen in verses 1-5 could be summarized: Gracious, generous giving is the result of genuine, grateful surrender. These principles can be identified as: Faith promise giving is enabled by grace, it is exercised even in poverty, it is evidenced through fellowship, & it is expected after dedication. We see here in verses 6-15, 4 purposes for giving: maturity in faith (*enjoy it!*), sincerity of love (*prove it!*), conformity to Christ (*show it!*), & generosity for others (*share it!*). The central verse of these chapters is 8:9 (with a parallel in 9:15). Hughes comments: “The logic implicit in the statement of this great truth is too obvious for anyone to miss it; if He did all this for me, then nothing I give or do for Him can be too much; such love constrains me; redeemed at incalculable cost, I am no longer my own; all that was mine is now His, for Him to make use of in accordance with His holy purposes.” Redpath concurs, “And because I am altogether His, then nothing I have is my own. I must give according to what I have.” [Consider again I Chronicles 29:13-14] What is the motive & measure of your giving?