

2nd Corinthians Chapter 8

October 28, 2026

Paul writes to encourage the Corinthians in a practical expression of their faith. The Jerusalem church is facing famine, and Paul appeals not to guilt but to **grace**—the gift of God that moves the heart to give.

Key Themes and Structure

1. The Macedonian Example (1–5)

Paul highlights the Macedonian churches' "abundance of joy" and "deep poverty" overflowing into generous giving. They gave **according to their means and even beyond it**, not out of obligation but because they "gave themselves first to the Lord" This shows that true generosity is measured by sacrifice, not amount.

2. Paul's Encouragement (6–8)

He urges the Corinthians to "excel in this grace of giving," not as a command but as a test of the sincerity of their love. Giving is itself a gift from God, and the willingness to give is the key.

3. Christ as the Ultimate Model (9)

Jesus, though rich in heaven, became poor for our sake so that we might become rich through His poverty. This is the heart of God's generosity.

4. Practical Application (10–15)

Paul calls the Corinthians to finish the work they began, matching their eagerness with their action. The goal is equality: the Corinthians' surplus now meets Jerusalem's need, and Jerusalem's surplus will meet theirs later.

5. Integrity in Giving (16–24)

Paul sends Titus and a trusted companion to collect the offering, ensuring transparency and honoring the Lord. The process is designed to be honorable both before God and people.

Core Principles

- **Grace before action:** God's grace inspires giving; it is not a human duty but a divine gift.
- **Sacrificial generosity:** True giving is measured by what is given up, not the amount.
- **Christ-centered model:** Jesus' self-emptying is the ultimate example of generosity.
- **Follow-through:** Commitment must be matched by action.
- **Equality and mutual care:** The church should share burdens and blessings.

In summary: 2 Corinthians 8 teaches that Christian generosity flows from a heart surrendered to God, is modeled by Christ, and is expressed in faithful, transparent action that promotes equality and honors the Lord.