

DAY 30 – CHRISTIANS FILLED WITH GENEROSITY

"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." — **2 Corinthians 8:1–5**

The Corinthians were proud of their spirituality and success as a church, so Paul gave them a challenge:

"Since you claim to excel in everything, make sure you also excel in this act of giving." A friendly sense of competition might stir their generosity.

Paul wrote this letter while in Macedonia and had an intimate understanding of the situation there. They were going through a severe trial and extreme poverty. On top of being persecuted for their faith, the region had been devastated by civil war and stripped of natural resources by the Romans.

Yet, in the midst of hardship, they overflowed with joy, and somehow that joy combined with their poverty to produce rich generosity. They gave until it hurt—beyond their capacity.

And it wasn't out of obligation—they begged for the privilege of giving.

Perhaps Paul didn't want to ask too much from them because he was aware of their hardship. But they gave with hearts surrendered to the Lord, to Paul and his companions, and now to the brothers and sisters in Jerusalem.

Paul uses the word *grace*. It was God's grace—freely given and expecting nothing in return—that allowed the Macedonian churches to give so generously. We are called to show that same grace toward others.

Their offering wasn't based on merit or reward. Every Christian should give in proportion to their means, according to their income. The tithe is a great starting point, but the challenge is to trust God and give even beyond your natural ability.

Statistically, only 15–20% of churchgoers tithe. If every believer tithed, there would be massive breakthroughs in missions and Christian service—and even more if they gave with gratitude and obedience.

God is a giver. Generosity should be a mark of every believer.

Look for every opportunity to give. Model and teach generosity to your family—not just with money, but with everything God has given you.

We are stewards; God entrusts us with resources to use wisely for the sake of His kingdom.

If He sees a generous heart in you, He's likely to give you more—not to keep, but to bless others.

Jesus is the ultimate example of generosity.

He willingly gave up everything He had, ending His life with nothing but a seamless tunic—and even that was gambled away.

You might say, "He was God and knew He would return to the riches of heaven," but He called many rich people to give up everything they had to follow Him.

Reflection Question:

Do you consider yourself a generous and grateful person?

Is God testing the sincerity of your love?