

Series Intro

ILL: Rosa's Fresh Pizza, 150,000 slices

2 Corinthians 8:1-2

¹ We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that was given to the churches of Macedonia: ² During a severe trial brought about by affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

Corinth, Macedonia

Abundant Joy + Extreme Poverty = Wealth of Generosity

If I had more, then I'd give

ILL: Forbes: \$25k +16%; \$200k -5%

$$2x - 3 = 11; x=7$$

$$4x + 6 = 18; x=3$$

$$2x + 3 = x + x + 3; 2=7; 3=9$$

2 Corinthians 8:3-4

³ I can testify that, according to their ability and even beyond their ability, of their own accord, ⁴ they begged us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints.

A spirit of generosity is proportional.

2 Corinthians 8:3

³ I can testify that, according to their ability...

2 Corinthians 8:12

¹² A gift is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

Mark 12:42-44

⁴² A poor widow came and dropped in two tiny coins worth very little. ⁴³ Summoning His disciples, He said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ For they all gave out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had – all she had to live on."

The principle of the tithe

A spirit of generosity is sacrificial.

2 Corinthians 8:3

³ I can testify that, according to their ability and even beyond their ability...

ILL: Feeding Hope

Galatians 6:2

² Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

“We may be obliged to give to others when we cannot do it without suffering ourselves... Otherwise, how is that rule of ‘bearing one another’s burdens’ fulfilled? If we are never obliged to relieve others’ burdens except when we can do it without burdening ourselves, then how do we bear our neighbor’s burdens when we bear no burden at all?” (Jonathan Edwards)

A spirit of generosity is volitional.

2 Corinthians 8:3

³ I can testify that, according to their ability and even beyond their ability, of their own accord...

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give.

1 Corinthians 13:3

³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I give over my body to be burned, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ The Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me.

Ephesians 5:2

² Christ loved us and gave Himself for us.

Ephesians 5:25

²⁵ Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her.

John 3:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.

ILL: 40-Year Present