

## The Graces of a Christian #5 — GENEROSITY

A Study on 2 Corinthians

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### 2 Cor. 8:1-8

And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. [2] Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. [3] For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, [4] they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. [5] And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. [6] So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. [7] But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

[8] I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others.

### 2 Cor. 9:6-11

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. [7] Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. [8] And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. [9] As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

[10] Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. [11] You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

### 2 Cor. 9:13-14

Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. [14] And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.

1. Giving should be M\_\_\_\_\_ by L\_\_\_\_\_

2. Giving should be M\_\_\_\_\_ by the L\_\_\_\_\_

3. Giving should be M\_\_\_\_\_ by L\_\_\_\_\_

4. Giving should be M\_\_\_\_\_ by the L\_\_\_\_\_ (or L\_\_\_\_\_ ) of praise

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## WHAT DOES A GRACE-FILLED CHRISTIAN LOOK LIKE?

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### CHRISTIAN GRACES #5 – Discussion Guide

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- Share about a time when you were in financial need and someone gave you an unexpected gift to help you. What was your relationship with the person before he/she gave you that gift? How did you feel him/her afterward?
- Have you ever been in the opposite situation, where God used you to help someone else when they were in financial need? How did it feel to be a blessing to someone in need? What prompted you to help? What was the result of your generosity?
- It's often been said, "You can give without loving but you can't love without giving." Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not? Why do you think some people tend to be stingy in their giving? How can this quote be applied to our love of country, community and church?
- Is it possible to be generous even if we don't have a lot of financial resources? Does it surprise you to know that the most generous people in our country are not the richest but those of modest income? Why do you think this is so?
- What is the result when we get trapped in the "If I win the lottery then I'll give" syndrome? Do you think God cares more about what we would do if we had more money or about what we do with the money we already have? Why? What principles should govern our giving?
- What are some wrong motives for giving? Have you ever known people who gave money just to be recognized by others or to feel better about themselves? How do you think God assessed their giving? What should be the motivation for our generosity? How might that motivation influence how easily we "let go" of our gift? Why do you think so many people struggle to give without having "strings" attached?
- Why is generosity considered one of the Christian graces? Make a list of practical steps for becoming a more generous person.