

## The Challenge to Give

### 2 Corinthians 08:01–15

**1 *Know the spirit of the Macedonians: They gave because of the grace and favour of God***

- a. They gave in spite of terrible trial and deep poverty, and they gave liberally
- b. They gave beyond their ability — willingly
- c. They gave insistently, begging for the privilege to share
- d. They gave themselves to the Lord first

**2 *Excel in the same spirit of giving***

- a. The grace of giving is to be completed in you
- b. The other graces abound in you; therefore, the grace of giving is to abound in you

**3 *Prove the sincerity of your love***

- 1 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.

<p><b>4 <i>Know the example of Christ — He gave</i></b></p>	<p>9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.</p>
<p><b>5 <i>Remember your own past record</i></b></p>	<p>10 And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so.</p>
<p><b>6 <i>Give readily and willingly</i></b></p> <p>a. Give yourselves to the mission</p> <p>b. Finish the mission</p> <p>c. Be ready to give</p> <p>d. The reason: God judges according to what a man has</p>	<p>11 Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.</p> <p>12 For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.</p>
<p><b>7 <i>Meet the needs of one another — equally</i></b></p> <p>a. One is not to be eased and another burdened</p> <p>b. Each need is to be equally met</p> <p>c. Scripture supports this instruction</p>	<p>13 Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality.</p> <p>14 At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality,</p> <p>15 As it is written: “He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little.”</p>