

“Giving Grace”
by Rev. John C. Tittle

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 8: 1-9 NRSVue

¹ We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia, ² for during a severe ordeal of affliction their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means and even beyond their means, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of partnering in this ministry to the saints, ⁵ and not as we expected. Instead, they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, ⁶ so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. ⁷ Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

Discussion:

1. Observations or questions about the Scripture?
2. Can you think of a time that a generosity given or a generosity received was a life-saver for you?
3. We know that it’s good to be generous, but sometimes it can be scary to practice. Why is that?
4. Paul was collecting a special offering from the Gentiles churches to help the impoverished Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. Paul hoped that this “grace of God” would help the needy and unify Jews and Gentiles. *How does generosity accomplish both of these desires?*
5. According to Paul, in what life circumstances are we to be generous?
6. How can generosity be an expression of worship and devotion to God?
7. In what spirit should generosity be carried out?
8. Paul writes that we are to excel in generosity. Why is the practice (discipline and disposition) of generosity so vital for Christian growth?
9. How did Jesus display generosity in his life?
10. In addition to financial giving, what are other ways to express generosity?