

Generously Investing For Tomorrow  
2 Corinthians 8:1-7

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.

“Real generosity is doing something nice  
for someone who will never find out.”  
—Frank A. Clark

“The measure of your life will not be  
in what you accumulate  
but in what you give away.”  
—Wayne Dyer

We make a living by what we get  
but we make a life by what we give.  
Winston Churchill

- I. Generosity that is genuine **excludes** all **excuses**. (v.1-2)

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***.

1. Severe **trials** didn't deter genuine generosity. (1 Thess. 3:3)

***[Let] ...no one ...be unsettled by these trials.*** You know quite well that we were destined for them.

2. Extreme **poverty** didn't deter genuine generosity. (Rev 2:9)

***I know*** your afflictions and ***your poverty — yet you are rich!***

3. Overflowing **joy** compelled genuine generosity. (Ps 37:25-26)

I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. ***They are always generous and lend freely their children will be blessed.***

- II. Generosity that is genuine **exceeds** all **expectations**. (v.3-5)

**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.

1. Genuine generosity is exercised with **sincerity**. (2 Cor. 8:8-9)

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

2. Genuine generosity is exercised with **equality**. (2 Cor. 8:13)

**Our desire is** not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but **that there might be equality**

3. Genuine generosity is exercised **voluntarily**. (2 Cor. 9:7)

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, **not reluctantly or under compulsion**, for God loves a cheerful giver.

- III. Generosity that is genuine **excels** in **everything**. (v.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***.

1. Excelling in generosity requires **finishing** well. (2 Cor. 8:11)

**Now finish the work**, so that your eager **willingness** to do it may be matched by your **completion** of it, according to your means.

2. Excelling in generosity requires **abounding** in every good work. (2 Cor 9:8)

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.

3. Excelling in generosity results in **thanksgiving** to God (2 Cor. 9:11)

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***.

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