

The Power of Giving: Generosity

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. Who in your life is someone that you would consider a generous person?
2. We've all been given resources of time, money, and giftedness. In what area would you most like to grow in being more generous to others?

WORD

2 Corinthians 8:1-9 (NIV)

1 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very 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 Lord's people. 5 And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. 6 So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. 7 But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—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. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

God is less interested in the amount we give than the attitude with which we give. The Second Epistle to the Corinthians was written within a year of the first letter to the same church. Paul's spiritual burden was great; in addition to the problems he had to deal with his first letter, a wave of distrust in relation to Paul himself had now swept through the church. Some said he was not sincere; other events even questioned whether he had apostolic authority. This is an accusation!

Consequently, Paul here in his second letter depends his authority by placing before the church the overwhelming evidence of his sincerity in serving God. Which resulted the church have godly sorrows and repented.

2 Corinthians 8:1 (NIV)

1 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

He is now speaking into their heart by teaching to the about the grace that God has given the Macedonian church.

2 Corinthians 8:1-9 (NIV)

1 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

What are this God given grace; We need to understand this grace was given to us so that we know how to appreciate and to give in His glory.

* God gave His Son, His only Son.

John 1:14

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:17

“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

2 Peter 3:18

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

2 Corinthians 8:2 (NIV)

2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

The Macedonian church had overwhelming joy in spite of their severe trials and extreme poverty they have joy not only joy but overwhelmingly joy, because they act in the grace given by God to them.

DISCUSSION

Why generosity is important to God?

WORD

THE REWARD OF BEING GENEROUS

1. OVERFLOWING JOY

2 Corinthians 8:2 (NIV)

“In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.”

2. INCREASE IN ABILITY TO GIVE

2 Corinthians 9:7-11 (NIV)

7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, 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: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their 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 enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

3. INCREASE IN THANKFULNESS TO GOD

2 Corinthians 9:12 (NIV)

“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.”

4. GOD & THE GOSPEL GLORIFIED

2 Corinthians 9:13-14 (NIV)

13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others 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.

DISCUSSION

Which of these above points is your greatest and your least when it comes to generosity?

LIFE APPLICATION

Giving our time, resources, talents or even a listening ear or a kind word can be expressions of generosity to people in need (I Timothy 6:18).

DISCUSSION

Consider someone in your life today who would benefit from your generosity. How can you demonstrate generosity to that person today or this week?

VERSE TO MEDITATE ON

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

The point is this :Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

PRAYER

Share your prayer request and answered prayer. Pray for one another and throughout this week.



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