

“Generosity” Part 1
2 Corinthians 8:1-15

How often do you think about the “stewardship” of giving?

Is it an uncomfortable subject matter for you? Why or why not?

Have you received much biblical teaching on giving? If so, how has it guided you? If not, what do you think you have been missing?

The text and background: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

- Financially destitute Christians in Macedonia
- Financially wealthy Christians in Corinth
- An offering that had started one year earlier for poor Christians and never completed
- The origins of the Macedonian church can be reviewed in Acts 16

What lessons concerning generosity can be learned from a group of poverty stricken believers 2000 years ago?

1. ***When you give, do you give as an expression of God’s grace to you? (2 Cor. 8:1-5)***

Throughout the New Testament, Paul used many different words to describe an offering or a collection.

I Corinthians 16:1-2 - collection

2 Corinthians 9:5 - blessing

2 Corinthians 9:12, Romans 15:27 - priestly service

Romans 15:26 – fellowship, partnership

2 Corinthians 8:4 - service, ministry

I Corinthians 16:3, 2 Corinthians 8:1, 4, 6, 7, 9 - grace

How might this shape your attitude or action the next time you give a financial gift to Westwood Church, a community organization, a person in need, a missionary?

2. ***When you give, do you give with proper motives? (2 Cor. 8:7-9)***

Are there aspects of giving that you, personally, must be careful of when you give (eg. The donation receipt, the public recognition, etc.)

See Mark 12:41-42

3. *When you give, do you give from what you have? (2 Cor. 8:10-12)*

- Matthew 23:23 – Jesus speaks about tithing alongside other important matters of the heart

What one thing has really stood out to me and what is God asking of me?