

THE HEART OF A DISCIPLE

GENEROSITY



2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Assessing my
own generosity

When I give,
do I give as an
expression of
God's grace in
my life?



And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.

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Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. 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 (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

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During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them (Acts 16:9-10).

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Paul used
many words
to describe
an offering

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

Assessing my own generosity

When I give,
do I give with
proper
motives?



"Would you like to claim gift aid on that?"

Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on" (Mark 12:41-44).

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A woman with blonde hair is holding a baby in her arms. She is looking down at the baby with a gentle expression. In the background, there is a bookshelf filled with books.

Assessing my
own generosity

When I give, do I give
from what I have?

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. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have (2 Corinthians 8:10-12).

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“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former” (Matthew 23:23).

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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 (2 Cor. 8:7).

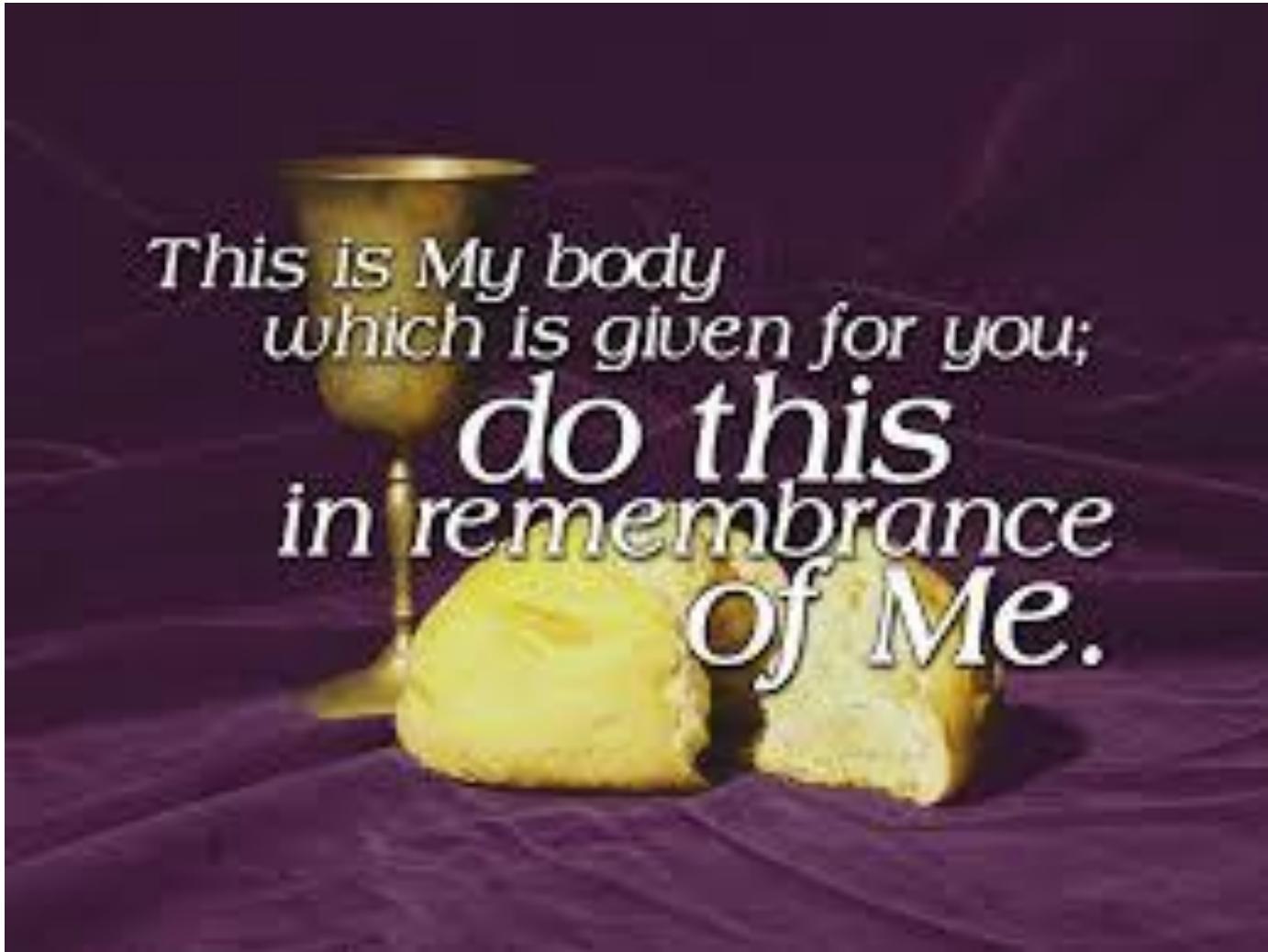
THE
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Communion



Communion



*This is My body
which is given for you;
do this
*in remembrance
of Me.**