



Grateful & Generous (2 Corinthians 8-9)
By Pastor David Hillis, 24 November 2013

BIG IDEA: Grateful people are generous people, and generous people are grateful people.

- Joyful, generous giving is an expression of thanksgiving to God from a truly grateful heart, and that generosity is met by God with more generosity upon us to make us even more grateful.
- God always returns our generosity with even more than we need.
- Some of the most constantly generous, sacrificial givers are people who aren't that way because they are good people, or people trying to make a name for themselves. They are people who are incredibly grateful to God and His working in their lives.

MACEDONIANS & CORINTHIANS

- 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 - Paul praises the Macedonian churches for their generous hearts
- They had been hit really hard by the outbreak of famine during the reign of Claudius (AD 41-54).
- It was so bad that churches who weren't doing all that great in other parts of the Roman world were still trying to figure out ways to step in and do something about it.
- The Macedonian churches - the Philippians, the Thessalonians and the Bereans - all banded together to do something about all this.
- How can you be extremely poor and extremely generous at the same time? Paul says through the attitude of your heart, a heart overflowing with joy in the Lord.

- This is true in all aspects of giving. Our generosity with our time, talents, and resources are not based on how much we have, but how thankful, how grateful we are to God.
- 2 Corinthians 8:7-8 - excel in giving as you do with love.
- 2 Corinthians 8:9 - Christ gave it all for us.
- 2 Corinthians 9:1-5 - Paul reminds them of the commitment they made and their good intentions to help, wants to know why they didn't follow through.

God expects us to give 10% as a tithe to the storehouse. Scripture says we are not to put God to the test, but He makes one exception and that is with giving.

- Malachi 3:10 - "*Test me in this...and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.*"
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 - don't give under anyone's compulsion; we are to only give cheerfully, with a grateful heart for what God has done for and in us.
- Give generously by giving cheerfully, from a grateful heart.
- 2 Corinthians 9:11 - as a result, God will bless you in return, making you rich not just in finances but in every way, resulting in more thanksgiving ... more gratefulness to God.